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Today

***RELEASE***

## 2022 HEAT Fund open for applications

Long standing multi-partnership continues to serve human needs

Halifax, NS, January 19, 2022 – People in Nova Scotia in urgent need of help with home heating costs can now apply for financial assistance through The Salvation Army. Applications for the 2022 Home Energy Assistance Top-up (HEAT) Fund opened Monday, January 17.

The Province of Nova Scotia, through Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services, and Nova Scotia Power continue to work together with The Salvation Army to make the Fund possible for those experiencing heat insecurity. The province contributes \$800,000 annually and Nova Scotia Power gives \$200,000 annually to the Fund. Nova Scotia Power Maritime Link Inc. also contributed to the 2021 HEAT Fund to provide support to electricity customers who have been hardest hit by the financial challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic; approximately \$500,000 is available in the 2022 program year from that donation.

In 2021, more than 4,700 households received emergency home heating support. Household income thresholds for 2022 set at \$29,000 for one-person households, \$47,703 for two to four person households, and \$67,937 for households of five or more individuals.

The Salvation Army administers the HEAT Fund, which has been providing support to low-income Nova Scotians since 1997, with funding from Nova Scotia Power and the province. The program runs annually starting in January, with a maximum assistance amount of \$400 per applicant.

“The pandemic has disproportionately impacted underrepresented and marginalized communities and that’s why now more than ever we need support those in need”, says Peter Gregg, President and CEO of Nova Scotia Power. “Whatever the situation, everyone deserves a warm, comfortable place to call home, and the HEAT Fund is one of the ways we are working to help make that happen.”

With approximately \$1.5 million available in 2022, the HEAT Fund has the potential to assist more than 3,500 households throughout the year. “The additional funding for the HEAT Fund comes at a critical time for Nova Scotians,” says Major Keith Pike, Maritime divisional leader for The Salvation Army. “We have more people asking for our help every day, and this generous support will make a life-changing impact for thousands of individuals and families.”

When the pandemic began, the application criteria was changed, allowing those in need to apply every 12 months rather than every two years, and extending the application deadline indefinitely. NS Power also contributed an additional \$500,000 at that crucial time.

“We are pleased to once again contribute to the HEAT Fund to help alleviate stress and worry for people and families who find themselves in emergency situations to manage their home heating costs,” said

Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services Minister Colton LeBlanc. “If you or anyone you know meets the criteria for help, please get in touch right away with the Salvation Army for assistance.”

There is also an opportunity for Nova Scotia Power customers to contribute directly to the HEAT Fund by signing up on the NS Power website to donate money via their power bills. Information on the program and how it works can be found at: [HEAT Fund | Nova Scotia Power](#)

Information about the HEAT Fund and the online application form can be found at <https://salvationarmy.ca/maritime/heat/>

#### **HEAT Fund Client Testimonials:**

##### [Linda's Story](#)

*“It affects everything when you're cold; when your feet are cold, everything is cold. But with the money from the fund and being able to go up a few degrees...wow, what a difference!” Linda Kennedy, Halifax*



##### [Cheryl's Story](#)

*“I laughed and said to my sister maybe someone is bringing me free oil, wouldn't that be a miracle’.” Cheryl Bernier, Balls Creek, Cape Breton*

#### **Other Heating Assistance Programs available to Nova Scotians:**

- Heating Assistance Rebate Program: [www.novascotia.ca/heatinghelp](http://www.novascotia.ca/heatinghelp)
- Nova Scotia Covid Relief Fund: [www.salvationarmy.ca/maritime/home/programs/covidrelief/](http://www.salvationarmy.ca/maritime/home/programs/covidrelief/)

#### **For further information:**

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