2021 HEAT Fund Now Open for Applications
 *More than 6,000 Nova Scotian households to be helped this winter*
Halifax, NS, January 14, 2020 – After 24 years of helping low-income individuals and families in emergency need of home heating assistance, additional funding for the 2021 Home Energy Assistance Top-up (HEAT) Fund will help more Nova Scotians than ever this year.

The Province of Nova Scotia, through Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services, and Nova Scotia Power continue to make the Fund possible for those experiencing heat insecurity. The province contributes $800,000 annually and Nova Scotia Power gives $200,000 to the Fund. In December 2020, Nova Scotia Power Maritime Link Inc. (NSPML) announced a donation of $1.5 million to the Fund, which will provide support to electricity customers who have been hardest hit by the financial challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the launch of the 2021 season, the income thresholds have changed to assist more individuals and families. The thresholds are now 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. In 2020, more than 3,500 households received emergency home heating support from the Fund. The Salvation Army administers the HEAT Fund, which runs annually starting in January and with a maximum assistance amount of $400 per applicant.

“We know many Nova Scotians have difficulty making ends meet, especially in these unprecedented times,” 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 a total of $2.5 million, the HEAT Fund has the potential to assist more than 6,000 households throughout 2021. “The additional funding for the HEAT Fund comes at a critical time for Nova Scotians,” says Major Wade Budgell, divisional commander 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.

“The province is very proud to contribute to the Home Energy Assistance Top-up Fund to help people in emergency situations with their heating costs,” said Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services Minister Patricia Arab. “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](https://www.nspower.ca/community/income-based-programs/HEAT-fund)

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](https://www.nspower.ca/about-us/articles/details/articles/2020/05/26/heat-fund-provides-welcome-relief-from-pandemic-pressure) *“It has made such a difference for me. What a relief, and truly what a blessing.” Linda Kennedy, Halifax*

 [Cheryl’s Story](https://salvationarmy.ca/maritime/2020/04/the-miracle-she-needed/)
*“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*

**About The Salvation Army:**

As the largest non-governmental direct provider of social services in the country, The Salvation Army gives hope and support to vulnerable people today and every day in 400 communities across Canada. The Salvation Army offers practical assistance for children and families, often tending to the basic necessities of life.

**About Nova Scotia Power:**

Nova Scotia Power Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Emera Inc. (TSX-EMA), a diversified energy and services company. Nova Scotia Power provides 95% of the generation, transmission and distribution of electrical power to more than 525,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers across Nova Scotia. The company is focused on new technologies to enhance customer service and reliability, reduce emissions and add renewable energy. Nova Scotia Power has over 1,700 employees and $4.1 billion in operating assets. Learn more at [www.nspower.ca](http://www.nspower.ca/).

**About NSP Maritime Link:**

NSP Maritime Link Inc. (NSPML), which constructed and operates the Maritime Link Project, a subsea interconnection between the island of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. NSPML is regulated by the NS Utility and Review Board. NSPML is 100% owned by Emera Newfoundland & Labrador (Emera NL) which is a wholly owned Emera subsidiary.

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