

# Financial Assistance Programs



## Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP)

The Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) provides a **monthly, on-bill credit** to low-income consumers based on household income and household size. The OESP credits are between \$35 and \$75 and applied directly to eligible customers' bills.

The amount of the credit depends on **two factors**: how many people live in the home and the combined household income.

If your home is electrically heated, or you rely on certain medical devices requiring a lot of power, the OESP offers a higher level of assistance. Lower-income Indigenous Ontarians also qualify for a higher level of assistance.

You must apply to the program to receive the OESP credit. To apply or to find out if you qualify, visit **OntarioElectricitySupport.ca** or call **1-855-831-8151**.

## Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)

To support Ontarians through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the OEB has **temporarily increased the flexibility of LEAP**, to maximize the emergency financial assistance available to customers.

LEAP applicants **no longer need to be in threat of disconnection** or have been disconnected, but they still need to be in arrears and at or below the income thresholds. The limitation on receiving LEAP only once per year is waived but a **household may not exceed the maximum grant** amount for the year. The maximum value of grant amounts this year is **increased to \$1,000** (\$1,200 for customers with electrically-heated homes).

To find out if you qualify and to apply, contact United Way Simcoe Muskoka by phone at **1-855-487-5327** or email **LEAP@UWSimcoeMuskoka.ca**.

For more information, visit **uwsimcoemuskoka.ca/leap/**

# Sodium Levels in Drinking Water



## What is Sodium?

Sodium is a common element in the natural environment and is often found in food and drinking water. In drinking water, sodium can occur naturally or be the result of road salt application, water treatment chemicals or ion-exchange water-softening units.

The human body needs sodium in order to maintain blood pressure, control fluid levels and for normal nerve and muscle function.



## Sodium in Drinking Water

Public drinking water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act are required to sample for sodium on a regular basis. If the result is over Maximum Allowable Concentration (MAC), it is reported to both the Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks (MECP) as well as the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU).

## Sodium Testing Results

Innisfil's water systems were recently tested for sodium in November of 2021. Here are the results:

Sodium in Drinking Water		
System	1st Sample (mg/L)	Re-Sample (mg/L)
Innisfil Lake Simcoe	30.8	33.4
Churchill Wells #1 & #2	22.3	21.8
Churchill Wells #3	53.3	60.1
Stroud	35.6	36.4
Innisfil Heights	19.5	N/A

\*Maximum Allowable Concentration = 20 mg/L

\* Aesthetic Objective/Operational Guideline = 200 mg/L

Sodium in drinking water is not a health concern for most people but may be for someone with specific health issues that require them to be on a sodium-restricted diet. For more information on sodium in drinking water, visit <https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/>.