



NEWS RELEASE – October 30, 2015

New program offers electricity bill relief for low-income households

Ajax, ON – The Ontario Energy Board (“OEB”) has launched a new program designed to help make electricity more affordable for low-income households. The Ontario Electricity Support Program (“OESP”) will provide ongoing assistance directly on the bills of eligible low-income electricity consumers beginning January 1, 2016.

Low-income households that apply and qualify for the program will receive an OESP credit on their electricity bills. The credit amount is based on the number of people living in the home and their total household income. For some consumers, the need to use more electricity is unavoidable – people who rely on electric heat or medical devices for example. These consumers may receive a higher level of assistance.

“As one of Ontario’s largest electric utilities serving a number of diverse communities, Veridian is pleased to have another assistance program that our most vulnerable customers can use to help them manage their electricity costs,” says Rob Scarffe, Executive Vice President, Customer Services & Information Technology.

Customers can apply online at OntarioElectricitySupport.ca and call (toll free within Ontario) 1-855-831-8151 for program information. Households without computer and internet access to apply online are encouraged to visit their local municipal office or library, which often have workstations available.

Applicants will need the following information when applying for the program:

- A copy of their most recent electricity bill,
- Names and birthdates of all the occupants in their households as registered with the Canada Revenue Agency, and
- Social Insurance Numbers (SINs), Individual Tax Numbers or temporary taxation numbers for occupants over the age of 16.

The implementation of the OESP follows the conclusion of the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit (“OCEB”) on December 31, 2015. The OCEB started in 2011 for a five-year term and has provided approximately \$1 billion in relief to eligible consumers annually.

Veridian Connections Inc. safely and reliably delivers electricity to more than 119,000 customers in the Cities of Pickering and Belleville, the Towns of Ajax and Gravenhurst, the Municipality of Port Hope, and the communities of Uxbridge, Bowmanville, Newcastle, Orono, Port Perry, Beaverton, Sunderland and Cannington. Veridian Connections Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Veridian Corporation. The City of Pickering, the Town of Ajax, the Municipality of Clarington and the City of Belleville jointly own Veridian Corporation.

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