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TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON OCTOBER 6, 2014
FROM:	SANDRA DATARS BERE MANAGING DIRECTOR, HOUSING, SOCIAL SERVICES AND DEARNESS HOME
SUBJECT:	ONTARIO WORKS PARTICIPANT PROFILE, JULY 2014

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Housing, Social Services and Dearness Home, the following report **BE RECEIVED** for information purposes.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

Profile of Ontario Works Participants (March 2004, September 2007, September 2008, September 2009, September 2010, September 2011, September 2012, and October 2013)

BACKGROUND

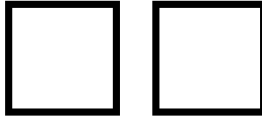
The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Ontario Works caseload based on the Participant Profile report and augmented by additional information for the January to August 2014 period.

Annually, the Housing, Social Services and Dearness Home service area provides the Community and Protective Services Committee with a profile report of the Ontario Works caseload (Appendix A). This profile provides the City of London, Municipal Council and the broader community with Ontario Works caseload information needed for good planning and trend analysis. The data for the profile report is provided by Ministry of Community and Social Services reports as well as by a local extract of information captured in Ontario Works Service Delivery Model Technology (SDMT). Local extract data for this report is consistently pulled on the third Monday in July.

CASELOAD HIGHLIGHTS

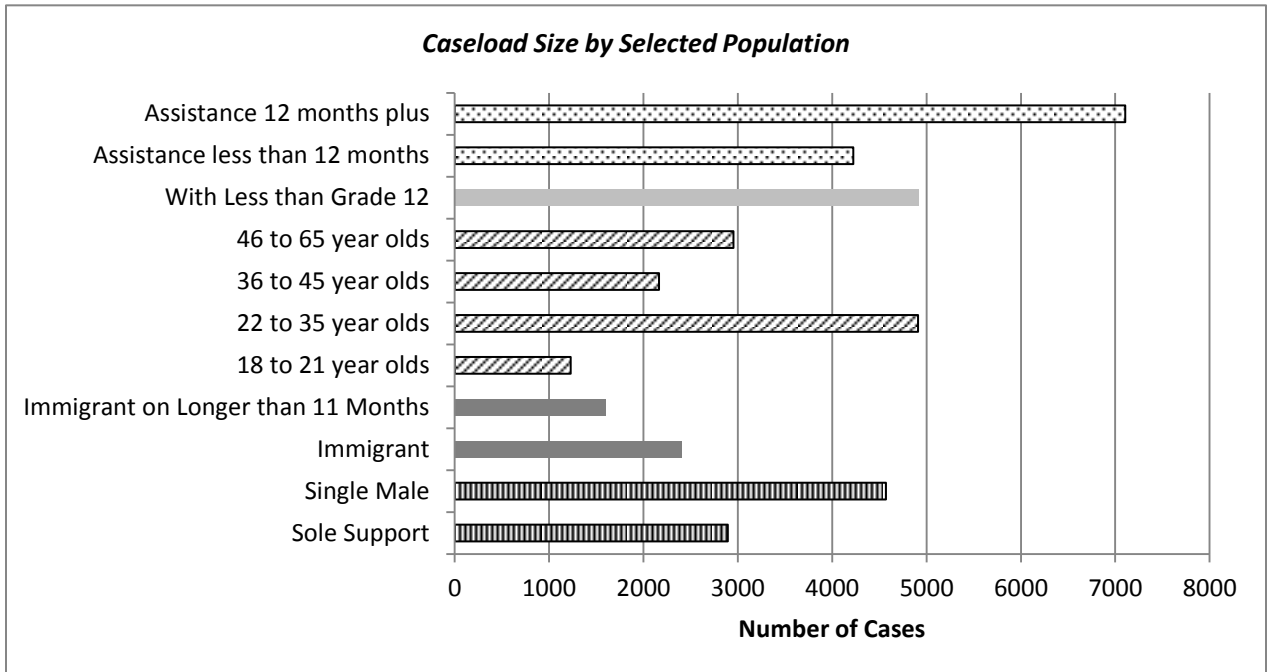
The following summary provides a general picture of the 2014 caseload:

- The average monthly caseload January to August was 11,195 which is an increase of 1% from 2013. An average of 19,611 people received benefits each month
- The number of single recipients continues to grow. 64.3% of recipients in 2014 were single, compared to 62% in 2013. The growth in single recipients is consistent with the trends being seen across the province
- In July:
 - 75% of all people receiving benefits were adults age 18 and older and 25% were children under the age of 18
 - The age profile of female applicants on the caseload is younger than the age profile of male applicants
 - One third of households were families with children. Most families with children were single parent families
 - Almost half of 6,800 children living in households that participated in Ontario Works were under the age of seven
 - 37% of households have been receiving assistance for less than a year and 63% have been receiving benefits for one year or longer



Breakdown of Caseload by Selected Populations

While a general description of London’s Ontario Works caseload is provided, in reality the caseload is heterogeneous in a number of ways. The following chart provides an overview of some of the populations that may have unique and distinct characteristics and needs.



Trends

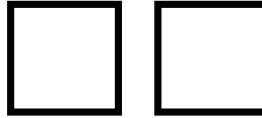
Much of the data on the Participant Profile remains consistent year over year. The following are areas where we are seeing some changes:

- Since 2007, the year that sustained caseload growth began, the caseload has increased by 49%. Caseload growth has slowed significantly with only a 1% increase between 2013 and 2014. The gap between the number of entries and exits from the caseload is significantly less than in 2011 and earlier. For the caseload to reduce, exits need to be higher than entries. Most of the caseload growth is due to the increase in the number of single individuals receiving Ontario Works. 64.3% of recipients in 2014 were single, compared to 62% in 2013.

Highlights of data available since 2007, the first year that most local data could be extracted include:

- The average time on assistance has been increasing year over year since a low in 2009
- The number of 46 to 65 year olds and the number of 22 to 35 year olds has increased more than other age groups on the caseload
- The proportion of households with children receiving Ontario Works has declined 18% between 2007 and 2013. In 2014, the proportion of households with children receiving Ontario Works edged up slightly to 34% from 33% in 2013

Data on employment outcomes have been available since 2005. Since a low point in 2009, employment outcomes have improved and remained above pre-recession levels. In the first six months of 2014, the number of people gaining employment increased over 2013. The percent of caseload with employment income has increased for the last four years and is the highest since 2005. After a drop in 2013, the percent of people exiting to employment has again increased to 23%.



FULL REPORT

The full Participant Profile report “City of London Profile of London’s Ontario Works Participants, 2014” can also be found on the City’s website on the Statistics and Social Research Page: <https://www.london.ca/About-London/community-statistics/social-issues/Pages/Social-Assistance.aspx>

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 2014 budget for Ontario Works caseload is based on a twelve month average of 11,000 cases, 0.2% higher than 2013 actual average caseload of 10,976. The chart below shows net caseload expenditures for January to August 2014 were over budget by \$129,709 or 1.9%.

Financial Impact: Estimated Caseload Expenditures (January to August, 2014)

		2014 Year to Date Budget	2014 Year to Date Actual	2014 Year to Date Surplus/(Deficit)
Average Monthly Caseload		11,076	11,195	(119)
Total Expenditures	Gross	\$60,166,869	\$61,418,345	(\$1,251,476)
	Net (11.4%)	\$6,859,023	\$6,988,732	(\$129,709)
Average Case Cost	Gross	\$679	\$686	(\$7)
	Net (11.4%)¹	\$77	\$78	(\$1)

This budget deficit was included in the second quarter 2014 operating budget status report and anticipated to be offset by other 2014 savings.

CONCLUSION

The caseload profile remains fairly consistent compared to previous years. The 1% increase in caseload size has been consistent throughout 2014.

SUBMITTED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
ELISABETH K. WHITE MANAGER, EMPLOYMENT & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	SANDRA DATARS BERE MANAGING DIRECTOR, HOUSING, SOCIAL SERVICES AND DEARNESS HOME

Caseload profile prepared by Randy MacTaggart & Momodou Jeng

- C: Anna Lisa Barbon, Senior Financial Business Administrator, Financial & Business Services
- Momodou Jeng, Manager, Research and Planning
- Elaine Sauve, Program Supervisor, Ministry of Community & Social Services

¹ Note: Net share has reduced to 11.4% which reflects the fifth year of the Provincial upload of OW benefits. There are some OW cases funded 100% by the Province. For this reason, actual net is less than the 11.4% of the actual gross. Average Case Cost excludes Transition Child Benefit.