

Workplan and Budget for the Analysis of the Low Income Population of Manitoba, Electricity Consumption Patterns, and the Impact of Rate Increases on Low Income Families

(1)Development of a Socio-Demographic Profile of the Low Income Population of Manitoba for the Public Interest Law Centre

Objective:

Provide contextual information on the Manitoba population including fixed and low income population of Manitoba for the Need For and Alternatives To (NFAT) hearings before the Public Utilities Board (PUB) on behalf of the Consumers Association of Canada (CAC).

Research Tasks:

1. Prepare and submit a request for special tabulations of the Statistics Canada Longitudinal Administrative Database (LAD) for the 2011 calendar year that profile the low income population in Manitoba.
2. Revise tabulations in conversations with Stats Canada analysts and confirm the final tables.
3. Analyze the results of the tabulations and prepare a report summarizing the analysis.

Time Required by Task for Harvey Stevens:

1. 5 hours
 2. 5 hours
 3. 25 hours
- Total = 35 hours

Time Required for Wayne Simpson:

15 hours, primarily for task 3.

(2)Analysis of Electricity Consumption Patterns of Winnipeg Households and Impact of Rate Increases on Low Income Families

Objective:

Provide a profile of the electricity consumption levels of Winnipeg (Manitoba) households across Winnipeg (Manitoba) neighbourhoods, according to the income level of the neighbourhood, over the last 10 years (2002 to 2011) and assess the impact of hydro rate increases over that time period on the consumption levels of households and on their disposable income.

Research Tasks:

1. Prepare and submit a request for neighbourhood-level tabulations of the LAD for the years 2002 to 2011 that provide a profile of the average after-tax income of families living in those neighbourhoods.
2. Submit a request to Manitoba Hydro for information on the average annual level of electricity consumption of residential customers living in each neighbourhood and the average cost of that consumption for each of the years 2002 to 2011. Meet with them to discuss the request.
3. Prepare a data set that merges the LAD with the Hydro data for each neighbourhood and create analytical variables that measure the percent of after-tax household income spent on electricity for each of the 10 years and the income remaining for other expenses.
4. Obtain information on the number of heating and cooling degree-days per year for Winnipeg for 2002 to 2011.
5. Obtain information from Manitoba Hydro on the dates of changes in residential electricity rates between January 2002 and December 2011 and the size of the rate changes.
6. Analyze the impact of electricity rate changes on the level of electricity consumption of households living within Winnipeg neighbourhoods, controlling for temperature changes.
7. Prepare a report summarizing the analysis.

Time Required by Task for Harvey Stevens:

1. 2.5 hours
2. 2.5 hours
3. 5 hours
4. 3 hours
5. 2 hours
6. 20 hours
7. 10 hours

Total = 45.0 hours

Time Required for Wayne Simpson:

25 hours, primarily for tasks 3,6,7

Total hours and budget (assuming no evidence before the PUB):

Harvey Stevens: 80 hours @ \$85/hour. Total research cost = \$6,800

Wayne Simpson: 40 hours @ \$150/hour. Total research cost = \$6,000

Additional tasks if evidence is given:

Additional report preparation for PUB:

Harvey Stevens: 5 hours

Wayne Simpson: 5 hours

Testimony (assumes one day plus any follow up)

Harvey Stevens: 15 hours

Wayne Simpson: 15 hours

Total hours and budget (assuming no evidence before the PUB):

Harvey Stevens: 100 hours @ \$85/hour. Total research cost = \$8,500

Wayne Simpson: 60 hours @ \$150/hour. Total research cost = \$9,000