

## *A Tip Sheet about ODSP Income Support Amounts*

# **Your Son or Daughter Lives in Your Home: Room & Board or Rent?**

### **Background**

Many adults (over 18 years) receive income through the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

Many sons/daughters continue to live in their parent's home or the home of another family member. This tip sheet has been created to assist with understanding how the provincial government decides whether someone's shelter amount is room and board or a rental amount.

### **Room & Board or Rent?**

#### **A/ Room and Board**

The room and board rate for a single person who is over 18 years old is \$825. The Ontario government defines room and board as, **"A board and lodging situation is one in which a recipient receives food and shelter from the same source"**.

When it is not clear if the situation is room & board or rental, the main factor looked at is **how food is prepared by the person**.

Here is how the government looks at how food is prepared by the person:

- If the landlord purchases and prepares the food, the recipient is a boarder.
- If the recipient purchases and prepares food separately for himself/herself and his/her dependants, then the recipient is in a rental situation.
- To be considered a renter, **a recipient does not necessarily need to be living in self-contained quarters, but must purchase and prepare his/her own food.**

#### **B/ Rent**

The ODSP program for rental has two parts: 1) Basic Needs, and, 2) Shelter. The amount for Basic Needs for a single person over 18 years of age is \$672. The maximum for shelter is \$497. The shelter amount can be adjusted based on the actual amount a person pays for rent. If someone is eligible for the maximum Basic Needs + Shelter their ODSP amount will be \$1169. A person will generally receive a higher amount if they are in a rental situation.

### **Important Information**

It is important to know the following:

- When a parent/family member receives income as a result of room & board, they do not have to claim the payments as income under the Income Tax Act,
- When a parent/family member receives rental income, they have to claim rent payments as income under the Income Tax Act.

Reference: Directive 6.2 Shelter Calculation & Directive 6.3: Board and Lodge (September 2018)