

Re: Employable Persons on Social Assistance
Notice of Motion, June 17, 1974

Appearing on the Agenda for the June 17, 1974 meeting of Council is a Notice of Motion regarding employable persons on Social Assistance. Following is a report on this matter from the Human Resources Administrator.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the policy regarding employable persons on Social Assistance as outlined in the Administrator's report be affirmed by Council.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER

FROM: HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR

RE: Employable Persons on Social Assistance

This morning I was given a copy of the Notice of Motion regarding employable persons on Social Assistance and was asked to prepare a brief report on the motion. Before getting into the substance of the report I would like to quote Sections 3 and 4 of the Social Assistance Act. They are as follows:

" 3. Social assistance may be granted out of funds appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose to individuals, whether adult or minor, or to families, who through mental or physical illness or other exigency are unable to provide in whole or in part by their own efforts, through other security measures, or from income and other resources, necessities essential to maintain or assist in maintaining a reasonably normal and healthy existence. R.S. 1948, c.310 s.3.

4. Notwithstanding any provisions of the Municipal Act, or of any other Act relating to municipalities, in respect to suitable provision being made for its destitute and poor, financial aid may be granted out of moneys appropriated for the purposes of this Act to any municipality or village to defray the costs of social assistance, but it shall be a condition precedent to the granting of such aid that the municipality shall provide and maintain social assistance and relative social administrative services on a basis consistent with the standards established by the rules and regulations made pursuant to this Act. R.S. 1948, c.310, s.4."

In view of this, I telephoned the Deputy Minister of Human Resources, Mr. J. A. Sadler, and read the proposed resolution to him. He indicated that the resolution would be contrary to both the Canada Assistance Plan

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and the Social Assistance Act. The most extreme action the province could take would be to withhold sharing with the municipality of Social Assistance grants as outlined in Section 4. He agreed to respond by teletype and has done so as follows:

"Mr. C. C. MacKenzie
Administrator
Social Service Dept.

I refer to your telephone call today concerning possible cancellation of Assistance to all employable recipients. Such action would not be consistent with the standards established by the rules and regulations made pursuant to the Social Assistance Act.

From J. A. Sadler, Deputy Minister of Human Resources"

Further, in this report I would like to indicate that we have in Burnaby the following numbers of employable persons on Social Assistance under the age of 40:

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|------------------------------|-------|
| Employable Heads of Families | - 87 |
| Employable Single Males | - 183 |
| Employable Single Females | - 81 |

We have checked with the Welfare Administrator in Surrey and learned that when their resolution was passed they had 80 persons who were deemed employable and were either single or couples (with no children) between the ages of 19 and 35. Of the 80 mentioned above, 67 of them had been offered suitable employment before being advised that they were no longer eligible for Social Allowance.

Surrey applied the same resolution during last summer and only one of the persons cut off Assistance in Surrey applied for Assistance in Burnaby.

Our normal procedure before accepting applications for Social Assistance from employable people is that they must be registered within the past 30 days at a Canada Manpower Center. Further to this, if our staff has reason to believe that they are not actively seeking employment, the persons are required to provide us with a list showing the date of the search, the name of the company to which they have applied, the name of the person they saw, and whether or not an application form was completed. If the persons was deemed to be not conscientiously looking for employment, they were advised that they were not eligible for Welfare and that they had the right to appeal. They were then given the appeal procedure. This policy is followed on a year-round basis. Further to this, we are advised that the current unemployment rate is 5.3 per cent.

In any surveys completed by the department concerning the length of time that unemployed employables remain on Welfare, we would report that the average length of time would be approximately three months.

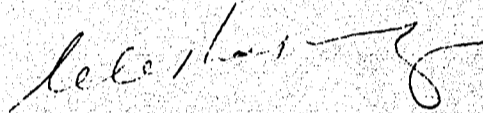
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In a call from Canada Manpower Center at 3:30 this afternoon, they indicated that their notice board lists only 6 vacancies for unskilled labour.

Since our Department policy is consistent with the regulations laid down by the provincial Department of Human Resources, and since we already have precautionary measures concerning persons malingering on Social Assistance, I would not recommend any change in the policy at the present time.



C. C. MacKENZIE
Administrator

CCM/mp

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