



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

07 JANUARY 2014

Updated: Information about Provincial Food Gift Card application in Durham Region

WHITBY, ON – Applications for Provincial Food Gift cards will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by phone, starting on Thursday, Jan. 9. If there are any remaining cards by the end of the first day, the phone line will be open again at 9 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 10. Eligible residents must call **1-888-721-0622** to apply.

Applications are being accepted for individuals and families most in need. Eligible individuals will receive one \$50 Provincial food gift card. Eligible families (more than one adult or an adult with at least one child) will receive two \$50 food cards.

When applying, residents will be required to supply the following information: full name; full address (including postal code); and confirmation of loss of hydro for at least 48 hours; and that they require financial assistance to replace spoiled food due to prolonged power outages.

Applicants who meet all criteria and are considered eligible will be provided with a location for pick up based on their address. Card distributions will take place at 605 Rossland Rd. E. in Whitby (Lower Level, Income Support Office) and 140 Commercial Ave., Ajax. Pick up will begin on Friday, Jan. 10 at 10 a.m. Both locations will remain open until 7 p.m., in order to allow for people to come throughout the day to help make wait times more manageable. When picking up their card, eligible applicants will be required to bring identification with proof of address.

Eligible applicants who are unable to attend in person to pick up their card due to mobility issues can send someone on their behalf. This individual must bring a signed note from the eligible applicant, as well as the eligible applicant's identification with proof of address.

Note: individuals who attend a distribution site without pre-qualifying by phone will not receive a food gift card.

In order to participate in the Provincial Food Gift Card Program, the Province required Durham Region, through its local hydro utilities, to supply data related to the number of customers who were without power for at least 48 hours. Local hydro providers advised that there were 13,529 customers without power for 48 hours or more. Durham shared this information with the Province and in return is receiving 1,882 \$50 gift cards for distribution. This Provincial initiative cannot provide food gift cards to everyone who lost

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power, and is intended for those facing the most need. The cards are being allocated as follows: Ajax, 318; Pickering, 626; Whitby, 86; Oshawa, 835; and Clarington, 17.

The Region of Durham will track distribution using card serial numbers for its official records.

Residents are encouraged to monitor the Region's website at www.durham.ca, Facebook and Twitter channels (facebook.com/regionofdurham and twitter.com/regionofdurham), and the local media for updates.

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Media inquiries:

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If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2036.



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