

Royal City Housing Co-operative Inc.

Policy 2016.16 Payment of Electrical Utilities

Passed by the Board of Directors of Royal City Housing Co-operative Inc.
at a duly constituted meeting on 21 September 2016
Confirmed by 2/3 majority at a duly constituted General Members'
Meeting on _____

Pauline Busby, President

Shelley Hickey, Corporate Secretary

Payment of Electric Utilities

Purpose

To ensure that the safety systems powered by electricity are not put at risk by a members' default of payment of a hydro bill.

Relationship to Other By-laws

By-law 2, Article 3.03(b): The monthly housing charge shall not include the following and the member shall be responsible for paying them: telephone; insurance on the member's own property; personal liability insurance for the members; electricity; gas, and cable TV.

Background

Members are responsible under the by-laws for setting up and paying for their own account with Guelph Hydro. On rare occasions during periods of financial hardship members might fall behind in their bill payments. Guelph Hydro may take the extreme measure of threatening to cut off the power to a unit and may even carry through on that threat.

Safety systems such as smoke alarms, fire alarms and carbon monoxide sensors are wired directly into the power supply.

Royal City Housing Co-op has a responsibility to ensure that these safety systems are functioning within each unit.

Policy

Royal City Housing Co-op will assist members experiencing this difficulty in the following manner:

- a. When a member receives a notice from Guelph Hydro that the unit is in imminent danger of having its hydro service interrupted, the member will immediately notify the coordinator on a confidential basis;
- b. The coordinator will make out a cheque payable to Guelph Hydro to cover the outstanding arrears;
- c. The member will meet with the Arrears Committee and sign a repayment agreement for this amount of money;
- d. The arrears repayment schedule will include a signed commitment to pay all future hydro bills on time;
- e. This special assistance will be available to a member only once;
- f. If there are any further instances where Guelph Hydro threatens to cut the electrical service to the member's unit, the Board will issue the member with a Schedule E as outlined in By-law 2, Article 10.02(A). This Schedule E will allege that the member has violated By-law 2, Article 3.03(b). Under the By-laws, a Schedule E can lead to the termination of membership and occupancy rights.