



Housing

Oil Tank Replacement Program (OTRP)

What is OTRP?

The OTRP is a Provincial Government loan program that offers loans to assist low-income households to replace their substandard residential oil heating tanks as required by law. By May 31, 2010, on the island, and by the end of the 2010 shipping season in North Coastal Labrador (approximately November 2010), all oil tanks must meet the industry standards of the Heating Oil Storage Tank (HOST) Regulations, 2002.

Who is eligible?

Households with a total annual income of less than \$22,397 are eligible. Verification of income must be provided with the application to the satisfaction of NL Housing. Incomplete applications will be returned.

What is required for verification of income?

Proof of previous year's income for applicant and co-applicant must be provided. This information will be accepted in the form of Notice of Assessments for the applicant and co-applicant or "Option C" printouts, either of which can be obtained by contacting Canada Revenue Agency at 1-800-959-8281, or verification of income from HRLE.

How much assistance is available?

Eligible households may qualify for a loan of up to \$1,200 on the island, and up to \$1,500 in Labrador. Qualified households will also be eligible for a \$300 grant through the Department of Finance that will be applied against the total cost of tank replacement.

What are the repayment and interest rates?

Loans can be repaid at a rate of \$25 per month. Interest is currently 5.875% and will be adjusted quarterly.

What is the law?

The HOST Regulations came into effect in 2002. After July 1, 2009, it became illegal for homeowners to operate unregistered tanks and for oil companies to refuel them. A registered tank will have a brass tag riveted on to its vent pipe and the owner will be provided with a registration certificate. Households not meeting industry standards after the mandatory deadlines will be subject to fines and penalties.

How do I apply?

Application must be made to Newfoundland Labrador Housing. Applications will be processed in the order they are received. Application forms are available online at www.nlhc.nl.ca, or at the Regional Housing office nearest you. Inquiries can be made directly to:

709-724-3136
709-724-3277
Toll-free 1-877-628-5670

What are the hazards of substandard oil tanks?

A leaking oil tank can become a serious fire, environmental and/or health hazard. The cleanup of contaminated soil and water can cost tens of thousands or millions of dollars, and may be the homeowners' responsibility.

Who can replace an oil tank?

Residential oil heating systems must be inspected by a certified inspector before fuel deliveries can occur. Your oil delivery company will have the technical expertise to assess your situation and to advise you on what is required. For more information and a list of companies with licensed inspectors, visit:

http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/Env/PolIPrev/petroleum_storage/cwli.pdf

or telephone: 709-729-2664