



ILBC Hydro Flat Rate Increase
Housing Provider Q&A
October 2014

1. Why is the monthly hydro surcharge increasing?

- A decision was made to increase the hydro surcharge as a result of rising hydro costs.
- This is the first increase to the ILBC hydro surcharge since it was introduced in 2007.
- In November 2013, BC Hydro announced further increases in residential and commercial hydro electric power rates over the next five years.

2. How will my ILBC tenants be advised of the increase in the hydro surcharge?

- Tenants will be advised of the increase as part of their annual rental rate setting letter issued by the health authorities in mid-October 2014.
- Any new tenants being housed between now and January 1st will be advised of the hydro surcharge increase by their health authority contact.

3. Is there anything I need to do as an ILBC provider?

- All providers should be reviewing their ILBC tenancy agreements to ensure appropriate hydro surcharge language is included. The tenancy agreement is a legally binding contract between your organization and the client.

4. For those ILBC tenants not currently paying a hydro surcharge, will they now need to pay one?

- Tenants who have signed tenancy agreements clearly specifying that all hydro costs are included in the tenant rent are not expected to pay any hydro surcharges.
- Therefore, those ILBC tenants who moved in prior to October 2007 and signed such agreements will continue to be exempt from the hydro surcharge.

5. What happens to new ILBC tenants housed between now and January? Will they pay the new hydro rate?

- New ILBC tenants will pay \$15 per month until December 2014, and then their hydro surcharge will increase to \$18 per month as of January 1, 2015.
- Any new tenants being housed between now and January 1st will be advised of the increase by their health authority contact.
- If you or your staff are assisting a client with an ILBC application form between now and January 1st, please advise them of the increase in the hydro surcharge rate to \$18 per month.

Questions about the ILBC hydro surcharge increase can be directed to your Non-Profit Portfolio Manager or for ILBC Rent Supplement agreements, please contact Danielle Scott, Housing Programs Manager at dscott@bchousing.org.