



## Media Release

### WINTER WARMTH FUND GETS BOOST FROM HORIZON UTILITIES

**(Hamilton, ON) February 19, 2010** – Individuals and families experiencing difficulties paying their energy bills this winter can apply to receive assistance through the Winter Warmth Program, funded, in part, by Horizon Utilities Corporation and administered in Hamilton by the United Way of Burlington and Greater Hamilton.

During the 2008-2009 winter season, the Winter Warmth program provided energy assistance grants totalling more than \$15,000 to 46 eligible households in Hamilton. In Ontario, over \$1.2 million was distributed to 3,400 eligible households to help cover the cost of utility bills for those in need.

“Horizon Utilities recognizes that 2009 was a tough year for many of our customers. We feel it is important for us to partner with other utility companies to support Winter Warmth and the United Way to help people stay warm this winter,” said Eileen Campbell, Vice-President of Customer Services for Horizon Utilities.

“Our campaign theme this year is ‘A community is not truly great until it is great for everyone’ and the Winter Warmth Fund is an example of the partnerships which contribute to making our communities great places to live, work and play,” said Len Lifchus, Chief Executive Officer of the United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton. “We are extremely pleased and grateful that Horizon Utilities Corporation has decided to work closely with United Way in this way. Relationships of this nature truly make a difference in our community.”

### **How the Fund Works**

Families and individuals needing financial assistance to pay their heating and hydro bills can obtain information about the Winter Warmth fund at their nearest community agency participating in the program.

Horizon Utilities Corporation's call centre will also advise customers about Winter Warmth, where applicable, and direct them to the appropriate agency. After a successful application process, one-time funding will be credited directly to the applicant's utilities account.

### **Eligibility**

Eligible grant recipients include low-income households who are in arrears or at risk of going into arrears on their energy bills and have exhausted all other sources of financial support.

Customers can contact the following agency in Hamilton to determine funding eligibility and submit an application:

#### **NORTH HAMILTON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE**

905-523-6611, ext. 252

The Winter Warmth fund was established in Toronto during the winter of 2004 and has expanded to include ten utilities, local United Ways and community agencies throughout Ontario. The ten utility companies – Burlington Hydro Inc., Enbridge Gas Distribution, Enersource Hydro Mississauga, Horizon Utilities Corporation, Hydro One, Hydro Ottawa, PowerStream, Toronto Hydro-Electric System Ltd., Union Gas Limited and Veridian Connections – will combine efforts with United Way to coordinate the fund through over forty community agencies across the province.

More information about Winter Warmth is available at [www.horizonutilities.com](http://www.horizonutilities.com).

### **About Horizon Utilities**

Horizon Utilities Corporation, named Company of the Year by the Ontario Energy Association, is one of the largest municipally owned electricity distribution companies in Ontario providing electricity and related utility services to more than 230,000 residential and commercial customers in Hamilton and St. Catharines. Horizon's employees are committed to delivering a safe and reliable supply of electricity, providing unparalleled customer value and helping to create a culture of energy conservation in Ontario.

### **About United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton**

United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton brings people and resources together in a way that makes our community a better, safer and healthier place to live, work and play. By bringing people together from all parts of our community to identify, develop and provide solutions to community needs, we are committed to investing the donations we receive where they are needed most.

For more information, visit: [www.horizonutilities.com](http://www.horizonutilities.com)

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For more information, please contact:

Sandy Manners

Director of Corporate Communications

Horizon Utilities Corporation

Tel: 905-317-4707 Cell: 905-308-1473

Email: [sandy.manners@horizonutilities.com](mailto:sandy.manners@horizonutilities.com)

Website: [www.horizonutilities.com](http://www.horizonutilities.com)

Monica Quinlan

Director of Community Investment & Agency Relations

United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton

Tel: 905-527-4576, ext. 223

Email: [mquinlan@uwaybh.ca](mailto:mquinlan@uwaybh.ca)

Website: [www.uwaybh.ca](http://www.uwaybh.ca)



**Company of the Year**  
Ontario Energy Association