

The new Income Assistance Legislation has been passed and it is expected that the regulations will be made public shortly. PIAC will be examining these regulations in conjunction with the *Employment and Assistance Act* to determine focus and priority of work in the next two years.

All representation for poverty law matters delivered through Legal Services Society has been eliminated so there is no longer any legal representation to deal with many of the legal problems affecting the poor. PIAC has met with the Legal Society Board of Directors and the Attorney General to discuss the importance of continuing to provide poverty law services and is on the committee to discuss aid for matters no longer covered by Legal Services, and a sub committee to review changes to the income appeal system.

BCPIAC, representing a number of anti-poverty, seniors, consumers? and tenants? organizations has written to the CRTC expressing serious concern over Shaw Cable?s application to deregulate basic monthly cable fees in areas of the lower mainland, citing a lack of true competition in the cable television industry.

BCPIAC made recommendations a year ago to the Government Energy Task Force which had a mandate to come up with a new energy policy for the province. It disagreed with many of the recommendations as did others, with the result that the final report has been delayed.

The ?Recreation Stewardship Panel? has come up with some pretty startling recommendations concerning parks and recreation. Among these was the elimination of discounted camping fees for seniors and the disabled. On behalf of BCOAPO we?ve made submissions opposing that change.