

## Welfare offers clothes as bank incentive

*by UPI*

VICTORIA, British Columbia - Welfare recipients in British Columbia are being offered winter clothes as an incentive to switch from checks to direct bank deposits. Employment and Income Assistance Minister Claude Richmond said the \$200,000 incentive program will give away 10,000 "cold weather kits" containing a knapsack, socks, a toque and a pair of gloves for recipients who go direct deposit, the Victoria (B.C.) Times-Colonist reported. Richmond said the measure was aimed at reducing lines at ministry offices and saving recipients fees charged by check-cashing outlets. The ministry said 60,224 people -- about 80 percent of welfare recipients -- use direct deposit. The province's welfare system pays an employable single person \$610 a month, while a single parent with one child receives \$946. Two parents with two children receive \$1,101 a month, the report said.

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