

RRDSSAB NEWS



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New Location

We have moved to 450 Scott Street! Watch for Grand Opening information in the coming months!



Children's Services News

The following is part one of a three part series regarding information that can assist you in finding quality Child Care in order to meet your specific needs. This information as accessed from www.gov.on.ca under the Children tab.



PART 1 OF 3: LOOKING FOR LICENSED CHILD CARE

As a parent, you want to choose the kind of care that will help your child learn and grow. You want to your child to be safe and happy. Here are four steps to help you find the type of care that is best for your child:

1. Think about what type of care you and your child need: How many hours each day, and days each week, will you need child care? Does your child have any special needs that the child care has to meet? Do you need to find a child care program near your home, work or school?

2. Find at least three places to interview for example, Nursery School, Private Home Day Care, Licensed Child Care Centres and Ontario Early Years Centres (OEYC): To start, try the Yellow Pages of the telephone book under Child Care or Day Care, Newspaper Ads, Internet, Bulletin Boards in local stores, Community Information Centres, Child Care Resource Centres, OEYC, Libraries, Churches, friends, neighbours, relatives or co-workers, Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) Regional Offices, and your local Municipality. Some Ontario Early Years Centres or Child Care Resource Centres may have a list of child care providers for their area. Just remember: Neither the Ontario Early Years Centres, the Family Resource Centres nor the MCYS have approved this list. As a parent, it's up to you to research, choose and monitor your own child care arrangements.

3. Make the first contact: Call each of the child care places you are considering. Speak to the person in charge (such as the supervisor or a home visitor at a home care agency. If they are not available, ask when would be a good time to call again. When you call, have a list of questions ready to ask the child care provider. The answers to these questions can help you choose the places you want to visit.

4. Set up a visit to the child care program: When you've decided what child care programs you want to visit, find out as much as you can about what happens there day to day. Take notes. When you have finished your visits, you can look over your notes. Then you can make your decision.

Watch for part 2 – Questions to Ask When Researching the Child Care Program that Best Meets your Needs and part 3 – What to Look for in Quality Child Care in our up-coming Newsletter or go to www.gov.on.ca und the Children tab.

~Kim Gardiman, Children's Services Manager

RRDSSAB Board Members

Alberton:	Barb Cournoyer
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Rainy River East:	Michael Lewis (Chair)
Rainy River Central:	John Callan
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Thought for the Day...

Life is full of obstacle illusions. (Anonymous)



Ontario Works Update

In the most recent provincial Budget, the government announced new investments aimed at Ontario's families, children and individuals in need, including a new provincially funded, non-taxable Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) for low-income families with children under 18 years of age. The proposed OCB is designed to provide a simple, income-tested financial benefit to eligible families. The benefit would be phased in over five years, beginning with a one-time down payment of up to \$250 per child in July 2007. The proposed OCB down payment was issued on July 27, 2007 for eligible families by Canada Revenue Agency on behalf of the province. Families that submitted their 2006 income tax return were automatically assessed for the OCB down payment.



Please note, in order for a recipient to be eligible for the OCB one-time down payment, the individual must have filed 2006 Income Tax Return; have their children registered for the Canada Child Tax Benefit; be a resident of Ontario; and is the primary caregiver for one or more children under age 18 who were born on or before **June 30, 2007**.

Effective July 1, 2008, the OCB and National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) will be considered financial resources which a recipient or his/her spouse is obligated to pursue. Recipients must provide all necessary information and supporting documentation to show that they are making every reasonable effort to obtain this available income. Reasonable efforts can include, but are not limited to:

- the recipient and spouse (if applicable) file an Income Tax Return for the previous taxation year and register their child(ren) for the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB);
- in cases where a recipient moves into Ontario, the recipient informs the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) of their new Ontario address; or
- in cases where the recipient and spouse (if applicable) have a newborn, the recipient will need to register their newborn for the CCTB.

The Back to School Benefit payment increased on August 1, 2007 by 2% and the Winter Clothing Benefit payment will increase on November 1, 2007 by 2% as well.

~ Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager

Non-Profit Housing Update

Rental Opportunity for Ontario Families (ROOF) is Ontario's new \$185 million housing allowance program. A "Housing Allowance" is a financial supplement given directly to a tenant to help pay the rent. Under ROOF, eligible families will receive \$100 per month, starting in January 2008. ROOF is a five-year program. Eligible families will receive the housing assistance for up to five years. You may be eligible for the program if you; work and have an earned income of at least \$5,000 and an Adjusted Family net Income below \$20,000.00, have one or more dependant children under the age of 18, are paying more than 30% of income towards rent, have less than \$10,000.00 in liquid assets, are not receiving social assistance or any other rent subsidy, and are a resident of Ontario and meet program requirements for the status in Canada.



**There is a
one-time
entry only.**

You may sign up to receive an Application or for more information at www.Ontario.ca/ROOF or by calling 1-888-544-5101. There is a **one-time entry** only. Applications must be submitted by November 15, 2007 to be considered.

The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board is pleased to have entered into a partnership with the Federal Government and the Province of Ontario to deliver the *Northern Homeowner Repair Program*, a component of the Canada-Ontario New Affordable Housing Program. The purpose of the program is to assist homeowner households with affordability and housing problems so they may continue to live in their home. The program provides financial assistance to repair or rehabilitate their dwellings to a minimum level of health and safety, including features that increase accessibility and address mobility concerns. You will be assisted for repairs in the following areas; structural, electrical, plumbing, heating, fire safety, septic system, well water, and safety-related features that support seniors ability to age-in-place. For more information or to pick up an Application form contact your local Municipal Office or call the Metis Nation of Ontario at 1-800-891-5882 or contact the RRDSSAB office at 274-5349.

~Sandra Weir, Non-Profit Housing Manager

Land Ambulance News

The Grand Opening of the new Ambulance Base at 32 Florence Street in Emo was completed on July 25th. It was well attended with approximately 55 guests touring the new facility. Guests came from across the Region to congratulate the Paramedics on their new accommodations. Thanks to all for attending and to the Paramedics in Emo for the hard work in making the base a fine example of the quality of care within the District! We would like to welcome Melanie Sheppard back to work. Melanie is returning from Maternity Leave on September 24, 2007.



Work is continuing on the development of heliports in the District. Currently we are awaiting the final completion of the heliport at Seine River First Nation. ORNGE, air ambulance operator for the Province, is considering the maintenance funding. The heliport in Fort Frances is up next. Design work and fund raising for the heliport are the next hurdles to be addressed. With our Bases in Fort Frances and Emo now completed, we can focus more on this important project.

More positive news from the Ministry of Health on funding; our Township Without Municipal Organization (TWOMO) was increased by \$250,297 to address outstanding apportionment increases. We have received confirmation of full funding for First Nations based on the per capita formula originally presented to the Ministry by the RRDSSAB. This will result in a permanent increase to the First Nations funding in the amount of \$210,245 annually. AVL, Automatic vehicle location, has also been approved by the Ministry, in ~\$72,000 in base and one-time funding.

~Dan McCormick, Health Services Manager