

# RRDSSAB NEWS



Main Office: 450 Scott Street ~ Fort Frances ~ On ~ P9A 1H2 ~ Phone (807) 274-5349 ~ Toll free 1-800-265-5349 ~ Fax (807) 274-0678

## This Issues Highlights...

- Children's Services News
- Open House
- RRDSSAB Board Members
- Board Member Receives Award
- Service Delivery Review Released
- Housing Update
- Ontario Works Update
- Thought for the Day

## Children's Services News

### Best Start:

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services has sent correspondence to announce an additional Best Start Fee Subsidy Allocation in the amount of \$98,000.00 for the 2008/09 Fiscal Year. This additional allocation will enhance our current Fee Subsidy budget and allow for an increase in the number of Fee Subsidy spaces we can fund throughout the District.



Recent Provincial announcements with regards to uploading of Social Services did not affect current Child Care Programs including Best Start.

### New Children's Services Manager – Mildred Beck

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Children's Services Manager of the RRDSSAB. Having been with the RRDSSAB for 7 years, I am familiar with the Children's Services Program and look forward to serving the Rainy River District in this new capacity. I can be contacted at 274-5349 Ext. #241 or by e-mail at: [mbeck@rrdssab.on.ca](mailto:mbeck@rrdssab.on.ca).

~Mildred Beck, Children's Services Manager

## OPEN HOUSE



The RRDSSAB is holding an OPEN HOUSE on Friday, November 14th from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at 450 Scott Street. Please drop in for cake and coffee and a tour our facility. We look forward to seeing you!

## Board Member Receives Service Award

We are pleased to announce that Gary Gamsby, Township of Morley Reeve, is the latest recipient of a provincial long-standing service award. Gary was one of two municipally-elected officials from Northwestern Ontario honoured for 25 years of service at the annual Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) Conference held recently.



Gary has been the Reeve of the Township of Morley since 1982; is a past president of the Rainy River District Municipal Association; and has been the Township's representative on the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) since its inception in 1998.

Congratulations Gary and thank you for your dedication and commitment to the District of Rainy River! Well done!

~Donna Dittaro, Chief Administrative Officer

excellence in Governance

## RRDSSAB Board Members

Alberton:	Barb Cournoyer
Atikokan:	Dennis Brown
Chapple:	Peter Van Heyst
Dawson:	Linda Armstrong
Emo:	Gary Judson
Fort Frances:	Sharon Tibbs
Lake of the Woods:	Valarie Pizey (Vice-Chair)
LaVallee:	Jim Belluz
Morley:	Gary Gamsby
Rainy River:	Debbie Ewald
Rainy River East:	Michael Lewis (Chair)
Rainy River Central:	John Callan
Rainy River West:	Wade Desserre

## Service Delivery Review Released

The results of the Provincial Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review (PMFSDR) have been released. The report emphasizes the centrality of integrated service planning, local flexibility and streamlined service delivery and affirms the successful role of municipalities and district as manager of human services. Included in the report is the upload of all Ontario Works (OW) benefit costs by 2018, the consolidation of all housing and homelessness programs into a municipal housing service, and a commitment to human service plans that better integrate policy, funding and accountability frameworks in the areas of social assistance, homelessness, child care and housing.

At present, the RRDSSAB funds 20% of the Ontario Works benefit costs. Ontario will upload the cost of Ontario Works benefits, beginning in 2010 along the following timetable:

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
~	3%	6%	14%	29%	43%	57%	71%	86%	100%

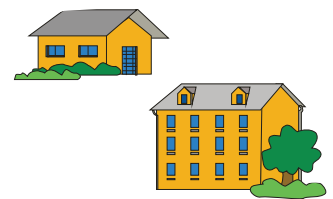
As of today, the arrangement for 50/50 for Ontario Works administrative costs stands, based on 2009 approved allocation. The Report Highlights include:

- A commitment to work in a timely fashion to simplify and modernize delivery of income assistance and employment-related supports and to better integrate Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), and Employment Ontario services to improve outcomes for clients and to make better use of resources.
- The consolidation of all existing housing and homelessness programs into a housing service managed at the municipal level.
- Enhancing the capacity of municipalities by coordinating community-based local service delivery and building on multi-year housing plans.
- Harmonizing policy program areas at the provincial level which will take place as a key element of the province's Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy.
- Provincial and municipal collaboration to introduce a shared accountability framework for cost-shared programs that focuses on the outcomes of the people actually being served by those programs.
- An introduction of a new community human service plan encompassing a range of social services including social assistance, homelessness, child care and housing.

Today's report also mentions the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) stating that OMPF will remain responsive to changes in municipal circumstances, such as the upload of the Ontario Drug Benefits, ODSP, and OW benefits. Consistent with the normal operation of the OMPF, the social program grants will be adjusted to reflect the reduction in municipal costs for these programs as the uploads are phased in. As a result, the OMPF will decline to a level of about \$500 million by 2016.

## Housing Update

We are seeking all low income households in the Rainy River District needing repairs to their principal residence.



Interested homeowners should apply to take advantage of the Northern component of the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program (AHP). Qualifying homeowners will receive funding from RRDSSAB to undertake repairs of modest and affordable ownership housing.

The Northern component of the AHP aims to maintain the affordable housing stock in northern Ontario.

Applications and additional information are available from Metis Nation of Ontario, Housing Branch, 226 South May Street, Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1B4, acting as delivery agent for RRDSSAB. Business hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time).

**Applications and additional information are available from Metis Nation of Ontario**

For more information contact:

Robynn Maluga  
Metis Nation of Ontario Housing Branch  
226 South May Street  
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1B4  
Phone # 1 (800) 891-5882

~Dianne Faragher, RRDSSAB Housing Manager and Sandra Weir, Non-Profit Housing Manager

## Ontario Works Update

The social assistance rate increase of 2% announced in the March 2008 budget will be implemented effective December 1, 2008 for Ontario Works.

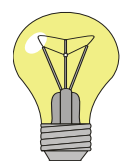


Our Employment Support Worker continues to run workshops on: Service Excellence, Budgeting, Job Skills, Job Club, WHMIS and Smart Serve. All participants are encouraged to come to our Resource Centre to update and/or complete their resumes and use the computers to seek available job postings

~ Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager

## Thought for the Day...

*The greater obstacle to discovery is not ignorance..... it is the illusion of knowledge.*



~ Daniel J. Boorstin