



Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board

CAO Report

December, 2005

Accommodations

- The Building Committee has contracted with BDO Dunwoody (Kenora office) to complete an analysis of purchase versus lease options for new accommodations. The information will be available at the December Board meeting, in order to assist the Board in its deliberations.
- The RRDSSAB has entered into an agreement with 1578289 Ontario Ltd to rent space at the old Fort Frances High School site, effective 01 January, 2006, to house up to five staff members.

Land Ambulance

- We are pleased to report that Riverside Health Care Facilities Inc has signed their *2005 Operating Budget*.
- As the *Service Agreements* with the current Operators expire 31 December, 2006, the Land Ambulance Committee is presently reviewing the service delivery model for land ambulance services in the District. The models are restricted to direct delivery by the DSSAB or contracting of the service to the two District Hospitals, which is the present model. The Board ruled out a single operator of service during their review of models in 2004.

Child Care

- The *Best Start Child Care Service Plan* for 2005 - 2007 has been formally approved by the Board and submitted to the Ministry of Children & Youth Services. Kim Gardiman, Children's Services Manager, Mildred Beck, Assistant Manager of Finance, and Jeannette Cawston, Best Start Coordinator, have been doing tremendous work, on our behalf, to consult with communities throughout the District on the Best Start Initiative; the Initiative's success depends upon our ability to gather input from all stakeholders, including parents. The staff are to be commended for their extraordinary efforts to ensure that we reach as many people as possible.
- We are very pleased to announce that the RRDSSAB *Funding Proposal* to move the Ontario Child Care Management System to a web-based platform has been approved. Special thanks to Cheryl Bodnar, Information & Systems Coordinator, for preparing and submitting the *Proposal* on our behalf.

Social Housing

- With the completion of all *Building Condition Audits* for our non-profit housing providers, the RRDSSAB faces the reality of significant under-funding of the housing providers' Replacement Reserves - a reality which existed prior to the Social Housing Program being transferred to municipalities. It is imperative that the RRDSSAB and District Municipalities urge the Province to revisit its support to Social Housing and provide the necessary funds to housing providers so that they can meet their future capital needs in a responsible manner. To put this issue in perspective, should the RRDSSAB choose to address the shortfall with a one-time top-up, between \$3 to \$5 million dollars would be required to address the long-term needs of our District providers.

Ontario Works

- MCSS has completed the *2004 Compliance Review* of the Ontario Works Program; the MCSS reviewer reports that the RRDSSAB is delivering the Ontario Works program at a very high level. Kudos to Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager, and her staff for another excellent year.

Victim's Services

- With the funding announcement of the *Fort Frances Area Victim's Services Program*, RRDSSAB staff have been busy preparing for the hiring of staff, in consultation with the Steering Committee. RRDSSAB will serve as temporary host, until incorporation takes place. The Program is intended to support interdisciplinary community-based non-profit organizations in the provision of integrated victim services to victims of crime in the Fort Frances area. Specific services include crisis intervention & supports; court accompaniment; information & referral services; personal safety planning assistance; and sexual assault services. Once again, hats off to RRDSSAB staff for participating in such a worthy Initiative.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Dittaro, CAO
02 December, 2005