



Accommodations

- MMP Architects have been working with the RRDSSAB staff to prepare final interior/exterior plans for 450/460 Scott Street. The electrical engineers have been here to tour and we will be meeting with the architect and staff on July 18th to review the plans and complete another on-site visit. It is anticipated that it will be mid-October before the tendering process is complete and construction begins. Given the uncertainty with the weather etc, it is expected that it may not be possible to complete the exterior work until next spring/summer. We have been keeping the staff informed and all are anxious to move forward with the project.
- The re-zoning required for the Fort Frances ambulance base has been completed and we are finalizing the purchase. We are expecting to integrate architectural services for both buildings, in order to realize cost efficiencies. We hope to have the base ready for the vehicles by year end.
- The Board's Building Committee met once over the past month to review the plans and discuss matters associated with the purchase.

Governance & Accountability Issues

- The Province has finally released its *Interim Governance & Accountability Guidelines for District Social Services Administration Boards*, following consultation with all ten Northern DSSABs in 2004. The RRDSSAB did prepare and submit a response to the *draft Guidelines* and it appears as if many of our concerns have been addressed. The *Interim Guidelines* represent only those changes not requiring legislative or regulatory change however, so we await further revision, once the *Municipal Act* and other pieces of relevant legislation receive government assent. For example, the term of office for DSSAB representatives will need to be changed to mirror the new changes in length of term for Municipal Councillors, i.e. an increase from three year to four year terms. We will adjust our by-laws and policies to reflect the new guidelines.

2006 Budget & Cost Apportionment

- We are in receipt of the 2006 tax ratios and current property assessments for the individual

municipalities and the unincorporated area. The 2006 RRDSSAB budget for land ambulance has been revised subsequently to reflect the new 'territory without municipal organization' (TWOMO) share and a reserve established for transition costs related to the transfer of delivery of land ambulance services to the DSSAB. In addition, it has allowed us to offset an unexpected Provincial increase to the employment assistance component of Ontario Works. We have been able to accomplish all of the revisions within the 0% increase to the municipalities for this fiscal year. Hats off to the staff and management for preparing such a fiscally responsible budget this year!

Respectfully Submitted by:
D. Dittaro, CAO