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### Accommodations

- The Board has chosen to proceed with the purchase of 450/460 Scott Street “as is” and we are moving ahead accordingly. We have retained MMP Architects, Chris Daly, Project Architect, from Winnipeg, Manitoba, and the design process is underway. Pwi-Di-Goo-Zing Ne-Yaa-Zhing Non Profit Advisory Services will provide structural engineering and support services during the renovations.

### Annual Staff Meeting

- Our *Annual Staff Meeting* was held recently at Sunny Cove Camp, giving us an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments over the past year, to look ahead to changes in the coming year, and to acknowledge our hard-working employees.
- The following staff members were recognized for long-term service:

5 Years:	Michelle Korpi Heidi McCarthy Myrna Beachy Joanne Spence Kim Tarrant
10 Years:	Marie Howells
20 Years:	Ron Oswald
25 Years:	Jacques Fiset

### Governance & Accountability Issues

- The Province has ‘re-invented’ the *Inter-Ministerial DSSAB Working Group*, a group which originally met in 2004 to identify issues crossing Provincial Ministry boundaries and suggest solutions. The Group was short-lived but has since been revamped to include representatives from Municipal Affairs & Housing, Community & Social Services, Northern Development & Mines, and CAOs from Northern DSSABs. At present, they are looking at the Emergency Management role of DSSABs, training for DSSAB Board members, the timelines for funding of the unincorporated share of Land Ambulance Services, Governance & Accountability Guidelines for DSSABs, borrowing & investment powers of DSSABs, and DSSAB’s access to various funding sources.

- The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) has developed a *NOMA DSSAB Liaison Committee* and invited the CAOs from the Kenora, Thunder Bay and Rainy River DSSABs to forward issues & solutions to their attention. The RRDSSAB always welcomes the opportunity to bring our unique challenges forward to NOMA so they can bring it to the attention of senior levels of government on our behalf. Priorities for us include the lack of adequate funding in Social Housing for capital reserves, for Land Ambulance bases and Child Care administration, the potential for negative impact on Ontario Works from the new funding formula, and the lack of response from the Ministry of Community & Social Services on several long-standing governance issues. We look forward to partnering with NOMA once again.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
*D. Dittaro, CAO*