



# RRDSSAB NEWS



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## This Issue's Highlights.....

- Children's Services
- Ontario Works
- Human Resources
- Social Housing

## Children's Services

### Children's Services - Special Needs Resource Programs

Special Needs Resource Programs are available in the Rainy River District at Licensed Child Care Centres and Nursery Schools for the purpose of Special Needs as defined by the Day Nurseries Act.

Resource Teachers assist licensed child care and nursery school services to assess children with special needs, prepare individual program plans for the children and to support staff in the carrying out of daily activities in accordance with these plans. To assist the individual child within the larger group, resource teachers may work with several children in one location. They also work with parents to develop a consistent expectation and approach for the child.

Planning for children with special needs occurs in collaboration with other community resources and services such as Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Infant Development, Pre-school Speech and Language, Best Start Hubs, Children's Mental Health, Autism initiatives and others.

### \*Special Needs/Children's recognized needs (Policy Statement per O. Reg. 366/04 effective Dec 1/04)

**Special Need:** The child is a "handicapped child" as defined under the Ontario Day Nurseries Regulation #262 (1), means a child who has a physical or mental impairment that is likely to continue for a prolonged period of time and who as a result thereof is limited in activities pertaining to normal living as verified by objective psychological or medical findings and includes a child with a developmental disability. "Developmental disability" is defined as a condition of mental impairment present or occurring during a person's formative years, that is associated with limitations in adaptive behavior.

**Social Need:** The child may require child care to address a social need due to issues with the home/family environment, and is referred to the DSSAB for child care by a Children's Aid Society, Public Health Unit, family physician, or another early intervention/prevention agency/professional recognized by the DSSAB. Social need includes situations where the need is directly related to the child, as well as situations where the child's need is the result of a greater family need.

All programming for special needs are initiated by assessments and referrals in consultation with the family. Fee Subsidy may be available to those families who qualify for participation at licensed child care sites that provide this valuable service. For more information, please contact the following sites that provide special needs resource services or your local best start hub.



**Wishing you a warm and happy holiday season from the Board & Staff of the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board**

### RRDSSAB Board Members

Alberton:	Mike Ford
Atikokan:	Dennis Brown
Chapple:	Rick Neilson
Dawson:	Linda Armstrong
Emo:	Gary Judson
Fort Frances:	Sharon Tibbs (vice-chair)
Lake of the Woods:	Valerie Pizey
LaVallee:	Ross Donaldson
Morley:	Gary Gamsby
Rainy River:	Debbie Ewald
Rainy River East:	Michael Lewis (chair)
Rainy River Central:	John Callan
Rainy River West:	Wade Desserre

### Excellence in Governance



### ATIKOKAN

Atikokan Rainbow Centre (807) 597-4517  
Atikokan 2-3-4 Playgroup Inc. (807) 597-1464

### DEVLIN

Country View Child Care Centre (807) 486-1264

### FORT FRANCES

Fort Frances Children's Complex (807) 274-5457  
Fort Frances Nursery School Inc. (807) 274-5653  
Zaagi-idiwin Aboriginal Head Start Program (807) 274-7244

~Mildred Beck, Children's Services Manager

## Ontario Works



In 2009, the following changes were made to Ontario Works:

- Exempting Earnings of Post-Secondary Students effective May 1, 2009
- Extending the Up-Front Child Care Benefit effective March 1, 2009
- Extending the Time Period to Request an Internal Review effective May 1, 2009
- Increase to Ontario Child Benefit Supplement effective August 1, 2009
- 2% increase to Social Assistance Rates effective December 1, 2009

*On behalf of the Ontario Works staff, we would like to take this time to wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!*

Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager



## Human Resources

The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) is currently taking the necessary steps to meet the requirements of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA), Regulation 429/07, Accessibility Standards for Customer Service*.



We are taking measures to ensure that goods and services are provided in a manner which respects and maintains the dignity and independence of customers, integrating services and providing equal opportunities for persons with disabilities to obtain, use or benefit from the goods and services provided. RRDSSAB employees, agents, volunteers and contracted service staff are currently being trained on the necessary components of the legislation to ensure compliance.

~Joanne Spence, Personnel & Policy Officer



## Social Housing



### Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

#### Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit Program (SHRRP)

On March 20, 2009, the province announced an investment of \$622 million to match funding announced in the federal government's 2009 budget. This brings the overall total investment for affordable housing in Ontario to \$1.2 billion.

Over the next two years, the province will invest:

- \$704 million to repair social housing units and make them more energy efficient under the Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit Program (SHRRP).

This investment will create jobs in construction and renovation and improve the lives of people with low incomes by creating new affordable housing.

Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit Program (SHRRP) are partnerships between the federal and provincial governments to create and repair affordable housing units across Ontario. The SHRRP and AHP Extension (2009) have several key objectives:

- Provide economic stimulus in Ontario
- Provide Service Managers (SMs) and housing proponents with the flexibility to meet local housing needs
- Provide dedicated units for seniors and persons with disabilities
- Incorporate energy efficiency requirements and accessibility into the new units
- Improve the health and safety of residents living in social housing communities
- Support the development of a green economy
- Contribute to the reduction of social housing project operating costs
- Assist in the reduction of social housing waitlists, including restoration of vacant or abandoned units.

The SHRRP is a two-year program that ends on March 31, 2011.

Funding for this program will be provided for each year (2009/10 and 2010/11) and is offered on a strict "use it or lose it" basis. Funding that is uncommitted by each fiscal year-end will lapse.

The RRDSSAB is pleased to announce the allocation of \$739,603.00 in 2009/10 and \$568,245.00 in 2010/11 for the Rainy River district.

Sandra Weir, Housing Manager



**"A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him"**

David Brinkley