

RRDSSAB NEWS



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This Issues Highlights...

- Best Start: Helping Young Children Get the Best Start in Life
- **NEW** RRDSSAB Web-site
- RRDSSAB Board Members
- Land Ambulance Update
- Financial Assistance Information
- Social Housing Update
- Ontario Works Update

Best Start: Helping Young Children Get the Best Start in Life



We want the best for Ontario's babies and children; that means making sure they get the best possible start in life.

In order to achieve this, the Ministry of Children & Youth Services has launched the Best Start Initiative. It's a Plan to strengthen healthy development, early learning and Child Care services, during a child's first years. We want children in Ontario to be ready and eager to

excel in school, by the time they start Grade 1.

Best Start is a bold strategy - one that will involve a massive expansion of quality and affordable Child Care and investments in children's healthy early development - all in a convenient and easily accessible location for parents. Approximately \$1.1 billion in new Federal funding over the next three years, beginning in 2005-2006, will enable us to work with our community partners, including School Boards, Public Health Units, Child Care and Children's Services Providers, and Municipalities - to make sure that:

- all children and parents have access to services and supports, regardless of individual economic or social circumstances;
- pre-school, Junior Kindergarten, Senior Kindergarten, quality Child Care, Public Health, and Parenting Programs are integrated into a seamless system that supports families and children;
- early and on-going screening of Ontario's children to identify potential issues, needs and risks is strengthened; and

- Early Learning and Care Hubs are centrally established in Ontario's communities to provide families with a single, integrated, seamless point of access to services and supports, based on local needs and available resource.

In Phase 1 of the Best Start Initiative, the emphasis is on expanding Child Care in communities across Ontario. The RRDSSAB has taken the lead in establishing the Best Start Network, and implementing the Best Start Program within the Rainy River District.

~Jeannette Cawston, Best Start Coordinator



Visit our Website

Visit our Website at
www.rrdssab.ca



RRDSSAB Board Members

Alberton:	Barb Cournoyer
Atikokan:	Dennis Brown
Chapple:	Peter Van Heyst
Dawson:	Linda Armstrong
Emo:	Russ Fortier (Chair)
Fort Frances:	Tannis Drysdale
Lake of the Woods:	Valarie Pizey
LaVallee:	Emily Watson
Morley:	Gary Gamsby
Rainy River:	Glen Armstrong
Rainy River East:	Michael Lewis
Rainy River Central:	John Callan (Vice-Chair)
Rainy River West:	Wade Desserre

excellence in Governance

Land Ambulance Update

The Rainy River DSSAB would like to welcome several new faces to the Rainy River District.



Welcome to Trevor Johnson, AEMCA, who accepted the Land Ambulance Manager position with Atikokan EMS on September 6th. Trevor began his career as a Paramedic in Atikokan and then moved to Thunder Bay to work with Superior North EMS. He then moved to Cornwall, Ontario, taking on the role of Clinical Training Officer for Cornwall Stormont Dundas Glengary (SD&G) EMS. In his time away, he has gained much experience and we look forward to working with him in the future.



Welcome to Katherine, new daughter of Atikokan Paramedic Therese Gouliquer; and also to Cowan, new son of Riverside Paramedic Shae Felix. Hope you're both enjoying your new family. We look forward to your return to work in the future.

Congratulations also to Riverside Paramedic Jennifer (Bodnar) Olson and Christopher Olson on their recent marriage. We wish them health and happiness for the future.

Recent funding announcements from the Province for Land Ambulance continue to fall short of the requirements for the Rainy River District. Only \$24,422 was announced by the Province for increases on Paramedic Wages and Benefits with an additional \$135,710 for adjustments to Townships Without Municipal Organization (TWOMO). Further TWOMO adjustments may be forthcoming, however, the amount and effect remains to be evaluated. The Province continues to fail to recognize their fair share of the increases in Paramedic Wages and Benefits, since transition of the Land Ambulance Program. Additionally, NO funding was received to offset increased operational costs related to fuel for vehicles, utilities, procurement of supplies and equipment, or administration costs. The Province continues to increase the burden to our Municipal Taxpayers, while failing to step up to the plate and pay their fair share.

The RRDSSAB continues to lobby the Province for adequate funding. Discussions on First Nations funding, administrative funding and proposed legislation changes on paramedic qualifications are ongoing. The RRDSSAB continues to seek a resolution on these and many other issues to minimize the impact to the Rainy River District.

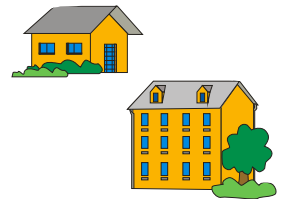
~ Dan McCormick, Health Services Manager



Are you in need of financial assistance?
Atikokan Call 597-1431
All Other Areas Call 274-5349

Social Housing Update

The Federal and Provincial Governments have signed a joint Affordable Housing Program to build 20,000 new affordable housing units in Ontario. The Programs includes funding for new housing units and housing allowances. For northern District Social Services Administration Boards, the Program includes a Remote Program component that may provide opportunities for social housing in the Rainy River District. Unfortunately, much of the program's funding is geared towards larger urban areas with long waits lists. Until the details and design of the Remote Program is released to the RRDSSAB, it is not known if, or to what degree, the RRDSSAB will participate. Our concern is the possibility that there will not be sufficient administrative funding to effectively administer the Program. It is hoped that the Remote Program will provide funding that enables supportive housing to be developed, as well as funding to renovate existing social housing stock in the District. More details will be provided by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing in November, 2005.

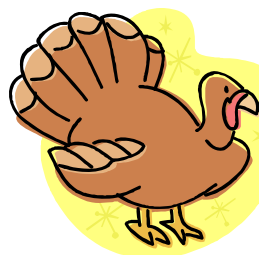


It is not known if, or to what degree, the RRDSSAB will participate

If you, or someone you know requires affordable housing, please contact Michelle Korpi, Tenant Placement Coordinator toll free at 1-800-265-5349 ext 31, or at 274-5349 ext 31.

~Cathe Hoszowski, Social Housing Manager

Ontario Works Update



Ontario Works staff have been busy implementing changes made to *Ontario Works Act and Regulations*, as well as reviewing files to ensure recipients are in receipt of correct entitlement as a result of changes.

In our Employment Resource Centre, we continue to offer workshops on: resumé development; job search techniques; WHMIS; and Smart Serve. If you are interested in attending, please contact Krista Ballard, Employment Support Worker, by calling (807) 274-4641. As well, Krista will be running a Job Skills Course based on workplace lessons.

We continue to offer workshops on resumé development

~ Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager