



Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board

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• Children's Services • Land Ambulance • Ontario Works • Social Housing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 20th, 2017

November 22 is National Housing Day

This November 22nd marks Canada's seventeenth National Housing Day. This day was originally meant to honour a state of emergency declared in 1998 due to high levels of homelessness in urban centres. It is widely recognized today that homelessness is not just an urban issue and that a shortage of affordable housing is an issue nationally, provincially and locally.

At the local level, Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board honours this day and pledges ongoing commitment to providing affordable housing to district residents in need.

Sandra Weir, Integrated Services Manager (Housing Lead) at the RRDSSAB states, "We are aware of the current housing situation in the district and have been working very hard to try to address it. This past spring we worked on several proposals for more housing across the district." As part of a provincially funded program *Initiative in Affordable Housing Extension* (IAH-E) "we are pleased to announce approval for an 8-bachelor unit apartment building for single individuals."

This 8-unit building will be located in the East end of Fort Frances on Fifth Street East, behind Lady Frances Place. Construction is already underway and is expected to be completed in May of 2018.

In the interim, the RRDSSAB is continuing to work with district partners to address the growing issue of homelessness in order to address the issue of emergency shelter and supports to ensure successful and long-term housing solutions.

Individuals or families who are currently homeless or at risk of homelessness are encouraged to visit the RRDSSAB at 450 Scott Street in Fort Frances, Rawn Road Centre in Atikokan, visit www.rrdssab.ca or call 807-274-5349 to learn what supports may be available.

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For more information, please contact Sandra Weir, Integrated Services Manager at sandraw@rrdssab.on.ca or 807-274-5349 ext 230.