



Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board

Media Release

Rainy River DSSAB 2022 Budget

Fort Frances, Ontario – 2022/01/14 – 11:00 The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) approved the 2022 Annual Budget of \$27.64 Million at the Regular Board Meeting held Thursday December 16th, 2021. The overall budget reflects an increase of \$134,353 to the municipal share or 3.98% increase. This increase is due in part of a loss of 100% Provincial funding for COVID-19 related expenses, preparation of an updated Strategic Plan and changes in some program funding formulas. The Board has again elected to return \$100,000 from prior year surplus to the municipalities to reduce the increase to the municipal share to 1.84%.

The 2022 Approved Budget is reflected below:

	2022	2021
• Ontario Works	\$ 3.25M	\$ 3.34M
• Children's Services	\$ 7.21M	\$ 7.87M
• Emergency Medical Services	\$ 8.44M	\$ 8.49M
• Community Housing	\$ 6.73M	\$ 7.49M
• Central Administration	\$ 2.01M	\$ 1.77M
Total Budget	\$27.64M	\$28.96M

The 2022 Capital Budget totals \$1.242 Million. Planned capital projects include camera/card access installation in community housing properties, paramedic stations and 450 Scott Street, further foundation repairs to community housing buildings, replacement of electrical panels and subpanels in Riverview Manor, Elevator upgrades at Queen Street, walkway repairs at 6th & Webster, Furnace replacement (7 units) at 6th and Webster, parking lot extension at Heritage House, new ambulance with powerload cot system and 13 replacement defibrillators. Capital projects are funded through restricted reserves and do not directly impact the municipal share.

"This budget furthers ongoing projects, such as the continued development of future community housing in the district to address homelessness and treatment of mental health & addictions", stated Debbie Ewald, RRDSSAB Board Chair, "The board recognizes the issue of homelessness and extreme shortage of affordable housing across the district. This is a step forward as we prepare for anticipated changes in service delivery and staff compliment. The board continues to effectively lobby our provincial Ministers to ensure that there is continued investment to meet the needs of the people in the north and improve the limited services available."

During 2022, the RRDSSAB will be completing a full review of it's Strategic Plan as well as continuing to build on successful partnerships with Community agencies such as the Canadian Mental Health Association – Fort Frances Branch (CMHA-FF). Work continues on our transition beds program and a new improved warming center that will be operational for the fall of 2022.

Ontario Works decreased, ~\$9K, primarily due to program and client expenses directly funded by the province. The provincial realignment of services, includes a centralized intake/approval system operated by the province with Service Managers such as the RRDSSAB moving to a more supportive

role for clients referred to as Life Stabilization. Northern Ontario and Toronto area will be the last parts of the province to move fully to this new transformed social assistance system in 2023.

Children's Services experienced a decrease of ~\$660K which reflects the termination of one time 100% COVID-19 funding.

Land Ambulance decreased by ~\$50K which represents a decrease in one time COVID-19 funding provided in 2021.

Community Housing expenditures decreased by ~\$760K for 2022 due to the end of Social Services Relief Funding at the end of March 2022. Further Provincial funding may be provided in 2022 dependant on the Ministry's ongoing review of the needs to support COVID-19 issues.

"2021 was a difficult year for the board, management and staff to ensure the needs of the communities continue to be met and that services continued to be delivered despite the limitations imposed by COVID-19. This Approved Budget demonstrates an ongoing commitment by both the Province and our Municipalities to create community housing initiatives and improve services and address gaps in service across the District," stated Andrew Hallikas, RRDSSAB Vice-chair, "Many thanks to our RRDSSAB board, management and staff for their continued hard work through the year."

"The RRDSSAB Board passed this budget at the end of 2021 which gives our staff and management an opportunity to shift focus to ensuring the continued delivery of services within this approved budget", noted Dan McCormick, RRDSSAB CAO, "By continuing to work together to ensure both the short term and long term goals of our communities are met!"

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We are glad to provide you with information on newsworthy events. Please assist us in our continuing efforts to meet the needs of the citizens in our district. Our budget document will be posted for your access on our website www.rrdssab.on.ca next week. Thank you.

Dan McCormick, CAO
Rainy River DSSAB
Phone: 807-274-5349 ext. 238
Fax: 807-274-0678

Leanne Eluik, Director of Finance & Asset Management
Rainy River DSSAB
Phone: 807-274-5349 ext. 245
Fax: 807-274-0678