

# RRDSSAB NEWS



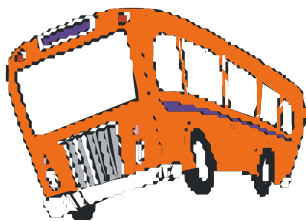
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## This Issues Highlights...

- Land Ambulance News
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- Ontario Works Update

## New Location

The RRDSSAB has purchased the property located at 450 Scott Street as a future office location. Preliminary work has been started on the design and planning. Stay tuned for more information!



## Land Ambulance News

Transition to direct delivery of Land Ambulance is proceeding smoothly. Discussions are continuing with CAW & CUPE to select a date for paramedics across the district to vote for union representation. This vote is expected to take place in October and arrangements are being made to ensure all paramedics have an opportunity to vote.



The RRDSSAB has purchased 801 Scott Street, formally the old bingo hall. This building will be renovated into a new Land Ambulance Base replacing the Base currently located adjacent to LaVerendrye Hospital.

The interior wall and ceiling coverings have been removed to allow the design engineers access to the structure. Renovations will commence as soon as final drawings are prepared. A lease arrangement has been reached with Atikokan General Hospital to continue utilizing the existing Ambulance Base. Arrangements are pending on a similar agreement with Riverside Health Care Facilities on the current Emo Ambulance Base. The Rainy River Base will be sold to the RRDSSAB by Riverside Health Care Facilities on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Arrangements are being made to ensure a smooth transition of all utilities and equipment.

Trevor Johnson, Atikokan Ambulance Manager, has been seconded to assist with the transition to direct delivery. Trevor will be arranging the transfer of utilities, verifying inventory and assisting with the smooth transition of the Ambulance Bases.

A new permanent heliport has been proposed for the LaVerendrye Hospital in Fort Frances. This heliport will be located on the waterfront directly across from the main entrance of the hospital. Consideration is also being given to co-locating an emergency dock facility to allow access to the hospital by boaters. The proposal has been brought to Fort Frances Council and has been referred to various planning committees within the Town of Fort Frances for further development. The proposal has already received preliminary approval by Transport Canada.

## RRDSSAB Board Members

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

Seine River First Nation is also working to develop a heli-pad. Canadian Helicopters has approved a site which should be cleared and leveled this week. Retroreflective cones will be provided by Ornge, formerly the Ontario Air Ambulance Corporation. Once the cones are in place a final check of the site will be conducted and the heliport will be officially opened.

~Dan McCormick, Health Services Manager

## Thought for the Day...

If you lose, don't lose the lesson.

~ Dahli Lama



**Best Start Update**

The expansion of Child Care through Best Start is on schedule for 35 new spaces. The development of a new Child Care Centre (Learn, Laugh & Play Children’s Centre) in the community of Rainy River serving Toddlers and Preschool children including JK/SK children is on schedule. The Centre will be located in the Riverview Elementary School, although a temporary location has been secured at the Evangelical Church. Services will be provided at the Church starting in October until capital renovations have been completed at the Riverview Elementary School.



It is with great pleasure that we welcome Ann Anderson as the new Chair of the Best Start Network. Ann Anderson is a certified Speech Language Pathologist (SPL) currently working for the Rainy River District School Board. Ann has been working as a SLP for 21 years in Northwestern Ontario.

The Best Start Network has been expanded to include a broad range of services for children and their families. The Network continues to meet in order to move forward with the longer term vision of integration of services and the establishment of Early Learning and Care Hubs. A strategic planning session is scheduled for October to assist the Network in moving forward with the Best Start Integrated Implementation Plan.

~ Kim Gardiman, Children’s Services Manager

**Social Housing News**

Effective October 1, 2006, a *Cascading Age Policy* will be implemented at Fotheringham Court (Atikokan) and Queen Street Manor (Emo). The Policy is currently in place at Elizabeth Manor (Fort Frances).



The *Cascading Age Policy* will assist applicants who are looking for subsidized housing in one-bedroom apartments in the Rainy River District. Vacancy loss is also minimized as units may be more readily rented to eligible applicants. The Policy is designed to house applicants aged 60 years and over first, then applicants aged 55-59 years, and, if there are no eligible applicants from those two age groups, applicants aged 50-54 could be offered a unit. We are hopeful that the implementation of this new *Cascading Age Policy* will help those who are in need of housing.

For further information, please contact Michelle Korpi, Tenant Placement Coordinator, toll free at 800-265-5349 ext. 31, or at 274-5349 ext 31.

~Cathe Hoszowski, Social Housing Manager



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

**Victim Services News**

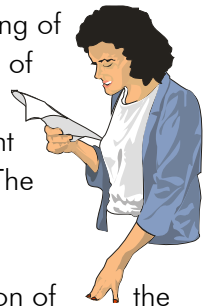
The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) is the Host Organization for the new Victim Services Program. A Steering Committee has been developed and is in the process of developing the Program from the initial Proposal. The Victim Services Program, which is funded through the Ministry of the Attorney General’s Office, is a volunteer-based crisis assistance and referral service for victims of crime and tragic circumstances. The Program works in association with police and emergency services within the Rainy River District. Monika Huminuk has been hired as the Program Manager, effective October 2, 2006, and will continue with the planning, development and management of the Program.



~Joanne Spence, Personnel & Policy Officer

**Ontario Works Update**

We continue to receive Directives advising of changes to the OW Program as a result of regulation amendments aimed at improving the Program. The most recent changes were effective June 9, 2006. The changes were made to: recipients in residential programs for treatment of substance abuse; payment for completion of the new Special Diet Application Form; 16 and 17 year olds being able to reapply if they agree to meet program eligibility; elimination of the temporary period of ineligibility for persons who voluntarily quit their jobs or who are fired with cause; increase of asset limit for motor vehicles to \$10,000; earnings of dependent adults attending secondary school full-time and amount paid to a dependent adult under a training program are exempt as assets; personal loans for purchase of necessary household items are exempt as income; and dependent children who finished high school are eligible for other employment and employment assistance activities benefit to enable participation or employment.



We also received a Bulletin advising that the Federal Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB) was not to be considered as income for the purposes of social assistance. In addition, allowable child care deductions are not to be reduced by the amount of the UCCB. The UCCB is a new Federal initiative that provides direct financial assistance to parents on behalf of children under the age of six. The benefit is paid in installments of \$100 per month per child (\$1,200 per year)

*A new Federal initiative that provides direct financial assistance to parents*

~ Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager