

# RRDSSAB NEWS



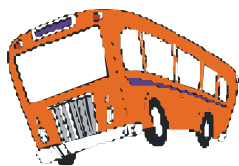
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## This Issues Highlights...

- Land Ambulance News
- New Location
- RRDSSAB Board Members
- New Board Chair
- Social Housing News
- Ontario Works Update
- Child Care Fee Subsidy

## New Location

The RRDSSAB has purchased the property located at 450 Scott Street as a future office location. Renovations are progressing on schedule. Stay tuned for more information on completion and move-in dates!



## Land Ambulance News

We made it! A successful transition of approximately fifty Paramedics to the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board for the Direct Delivery of Land Ambulance was completed on January 1, 2007.



No interruptions or delays in service were experienced due to the expertise and commitment of our Paramedics, EMS Supervisors and Administration staff. Thanks to all the staff for your continued focus on patient care and in ensuring a smooth transition of service. Thanks also to our hospital partners, Riverside Health Care Facilities Inc. and Atikokan General Hospital for assisting in the transition and for their continued support in the provision of care throughout the District.

The new Service, Rainy River District Emergency Medical Service (RRDEMS) operates across the entire Rainy River District from bases located in Atikokan, Fort Frances, Emo and Rainy River. Current staffing is one Health Services Manager, two EMS Supervisors, one EMS clerk, thirty-six Full-time Paramedics and ten Part-time Paramedics.

Congratulations also to CUPE 4807, who became the representative union for the unionized members of the RRDEMS. Kudos, to the newly elected members, Stan Vlotaros, Vice President; Stewards, Chris Wielinga, Patricia Livicker, Cheryl Morrison, Lucille MacDonald and Health & Safety Committee Representative, Robert Altbauer. We look forward to continuing our good working relationship and the opportunity to work together to improve the service and meet the needs of the residents of the District.

January 1, 2007, we also received our Ministry of Health, certification authorizing us to operate for one year. We are certified as the RRDSSAB and operating under the name, Rainy River District Emergency Medical Service #746. A full service review is scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>. Successful completion of the operational review will result in a further certification for a three year period.

Work is continuing on the old bingo hall at 801 Scott Street, Fort Frances. This building is currently being renovated into a new land ambulance station replacing the station currently located adjacent to LaVerndrye Hospital, which will be retained by the hospital for their use. Work on the new Base is currently 25% complete. This includes all rough framing and rough-in of plumbing and electrical. Drywall is currently being hung and we anticipate fresh paint in the near future. Work is progressing rapidly and we anticipate moving in prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The new Emo Ambulance Station is currently in the drawing stage. Tenders are expected to be issued shortly for renovations/alterations to a two car maintenance garage at 32 Florence Street in Emo.

~Dan McCormick, Health

## RRDSSAB Board Members

Alberton:	Barb Cournoyer
Atikokan:	Dennis Brown
Chapple:	Peter Van Heyst
Dawson:	Linda Armstrong
Emo:	Gary Judson
Fort Frances:	Tannis Drysdale
Lake of the Woods:	Valarie Pizey (Vice-Chair)
LaVallee:	Emily Watson
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

The RRDSSAB has a new Chair and Vice-Chair for a one-year term, as follows:

**Chair:** Michael Lewis

**Vice-Chair:** Val Pizey

## Social Housing News



The Ontario government is helping tenants who are facing eviction due to non-payment of rent stay in their homes; by making further investments in the RRDSSAB Provincial Rent Bank Program, the RRDSSAB will help people stay in their homes during tough times and avoid eviction. Tenants who are facing such a crisis may apply at the RRDSSAB at 206 Scott Street, Fort Frances or call 274-5349 ext. 24 or toll-free at 1-800-265-5349 for an application. If a tenant's application is approved, the outstanding rent is paid directly to the landlord on behalf of the tenant. The RRDSSAB's Rent Bank Program has been successful in helping tenants resolve unplanned financial difficulties, and stay in their homes for the past two years.

Tenants at Lady Frances Place (Fort Frances) will benefit from an increase in Supportive Housing services given the announcement of an increase in attendant services provided through the *Northwestern Ontario Living Services (NILS)* Outreach Program. Hours of service will increase from 4 hours per day to approximately 8 hours per day, 7 days per week.

The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board's (RRDSSAB) partnership with NILS has assisted with the provision of onsite support services for the past two years. The RRDSSAB is pleased that ongoing annual commitment of services funded by the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care (MOHLTC) has been confirmed. Together with MOHLTC, NILS and the North West Local Health Integrated Network (NWLHIN), the RRDSSAB is committed to continue working towards eventually providing 24 hour onsite Supportive Housing at Lady Frances.

We currently have one-bedroom apartments available in Fort Frances and Rainy River for people looking for housing - apartments include all utilities. If you, or someone you know requires affordable housing, please contact Michelle Korpi, Tenant Liaison Officer toll free at 800-265-5349 ext 31, or at 274-5349 ext. 31.

~Cathe Hoszowski, Social Housing Manager

## Child Care Fee Subsidy



Effective **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2007**, the way in which financial eligibility for Child Care Fee Subsidy is determined in the Province of Ontario, including here in the Rainy River District, has changed. Financial eligibility has now moved from Needs Testing to *Income Testing*. A key component of the Best Start plan, the Ontario government committed to introducing a new way of distributing fee subsidies based on income instead of the complex formula based on need.

New and ongoing families, at time of renewal, will have to provide your most recent copy of **EITHER**:

- A *Federal Income Tax Notice of Assessment* from the most current completed taxation year
- OR
- A *Child Care Tax Benefit (CCTB) Notice* from the most current completed taxation year

**\*All other eligibility requirements remain the same.**

Introduction of an *Income Test* means that more families across a broader range of income levels will receive a partial subsidy. Also, the move to an *Income Test* will result in a less intrusive application process for parents. It will mean a fairer and more consistent determination of fee subsidies across the Province.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please do not hesitate to contact Kim Gardiman, Children's Services Manager at 274-3042 or Cheryl Bodnar, Child Care Caseworker at 274-4375.

~Kim Gardiman, Children's Services Manager

## Ontario Works Update

On February 27, 2007 the Ministry brought guest speaker, Ian Hill to Fort Frances to address Employers and OW and ODSP clients. The employer forum was held in the morning. It was intended that employers would gain knowledge on employing individuals with disabilities, have access to a large base of employees to choose from and take advantage of the benefits of partnering with Supported Employment/Careers Unlimited, Ontario Works and ODSP.

Unfortunately, only 9 employers and Service Providers attended. The second session was held with ODSP and OW clients. There were over 50 in attendance. Those who attended would gain a renewed optimism for future possibilities, meet one-to-one with program staff and employment Service Providers. They also had the opportunity to access services to better help them and their families, find the supports available to assist in becoming independent and learn about the new changes to ODSP Employment Services and Supports as well as Employment Services available through Ontario Works. Similar sessions were held in Dryden and Kenora.

~ Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager

