

2010 Budget

The staff and Board Committees have been working together over the past several months to prepare the *2010 Budget*. The Committees have reviewed their respective Program budgets and put forward their recommendations to the Board. The Board held a special budget meeting on 5 February, 2010 and was presented with a 0% increase to the municipal share; budget discussions will continue at the February Board meeting to be held 18 February, 2010. Some of the factors contributing to the budget this year include: increases from negotiated salary increases & additional benefit costs; social housing capital work resulting from building condition audit recommendations, outstanding work from prior years, health & safety & accessibility issues, preventive maintenance, and the property management & maintenance of Non-Profit housing providers; the further upload of ODSP to the Province, and the beginning of the upload of the municipal share of Ontario Works general assistance and employment assistance (3% of the 20% municipal share for this year); the 50/50 cost sharing with the province for land ambulance services; decreased Best Start funding; introduction of the Early Learning Program; and the under-funding of Child Care administration.

Queen Street Manor

Our housing staff have been very busy at Queen Street Manor in Emo updating the common areas. The common room has been expanded somewhat to accommodate the many activities enjoyed by the tenants there, paint and flooring updated, and the furniture & window treatments updated. Kudos to our Maintenance Team for doing such an excellent job! Once complete, we hope to conduct a tour with our Social Housing Committee, interested Board members and members of the community.

Welcome back to Theresa Redford, our dedicated Queen Street Manor Custodian!

Riverview Manor

We have received approval from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing to proceed with renovations at Riverview Manor in Rainy River (with an allocation of \$436,200 in 100% provincial funding) and therefore will pilot an assisted living project in that area. An Aging at Home Committee was established over one year ago to begin the process of designing a program to address the need in the Town of Rainy River and seek funding. The RRDSSAB will renovate 3 one-bedroom units into 2 two-bedroom modified units and modify 2 one-bedroom units. The modifications will enable individuals with physical disabilities to live in the building. The site is located directly across from the hospital, on the main street, making it an ideal location for those requiring additional help to live at home. Various service providers have already committed to offering services on-site. We are working with the Northern Independent Living Services (NILS) to secure funding from the Northwest Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) to provide 24/7 on-site support. We are all really excited about this project and hope that the LHIN will recognize the need for assisted living in our District and support it through ongoing funding.

Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce Business Awards

The RRDSSAB has been nominated for the *Safety Award* this year, as part of the FF Chamber of Commerce Business Awards. The RRDSSAB has been recognized for the placement of defibrillators throughout the District, under our Rainy River Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in partnership with the Ontario Heart and

Stroke Foundation. Joanne Spence, Personnel & Policy Officer, who is also responsible for health and safety coordination for the DSSAB, has identified several other safety initiatives addressed by the DSSAB this past year. Good luck to Dan McCormick and the EMS team, our Health & Safety Committee and Joanne for all their hard work!

Rick Bliss, our Maintenance Coordinator, has been nominated for the *Customer Service Award!* Given his dedication to the tenants in our social housing units, we are not at all surprised. Rick is an extremely conscientious, dedicated professional who places the best interests of the tenants above all else. His nomination is very well-deserved. Good luck, Rick.

Human Resources

The following Human Resource activity has taken place since last reported:

Name	Title	Status	Start/Effective Date
Dan Sutton	Network Administrator	PFT replacement	08 Feb/10

Respectfully Submitted,

/d Dittaro