



# RRDSSAB NEWS



Main Office: 450 Scott Street ~ Fort Frances ~ On ~ P9A 1H2 ~ Phone (807) 274-5349 ~ Toll free 1-800-265-5349 ~ Fax (807) 274-0678

Satellite Office: Rawn Road Centre ~ Atikokan ~ On ~ POT 1CO ~ Phone (807) 597-1431 ~ Toll free 1-800-265-5349 ~ Fax (807) 597-1493

## This Issue's Highlights.....

- From the desk of the CAO
- Human Resources
- Ontario Works
- Social Housing
- Children's Services
- Land Ambulance

## Human Resources

Two of our staff members were nominated for the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce (FFCC) Awards. Dan McCormick, for the FFCC Safety Award and Rick Bliss for the FFCC Customer Service Award. Although they were not the successful nominees, we were excited and proud to see our staff members recognized for their efforts.

Over the past few months RRDSSAB staff have attended Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Training as well as Harassment Training. Bill 168 was released in December, 2009 amending the Occupational Health & Safety Act (OHSA) and comes into force on June 15, 2010. Bill 168 requires significant changes regarding workplace violence and harassment. We are currently working on the development of a workplace violence policy and procedure and amending our current Harassment Policy to ensure compliance with the new legislation

*~Joanne Spence, Personnel & Policy Officer~*

### RRDSSAB Board Members

Alberton:	Mike Ford
Atikokan:	Dennis Brown
Chapple:	Rick Neilson
Dawson:	Linda Armstrong
Emo:	Gary Judson
Fort Frances:	Sharon Tibbs (vice-chair)
Lake of the Woods:	Valerie Pizey
LaVallee:	Ross Donaldson
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

## From the desk of the CAO

### Riverview Manor "Aging at Home" Project

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 two years 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 staff. 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.

### 2010 Budget

At a special meeting of the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) held 10 March, 2010, the 2010 Budget was passed in the amount of \$20,479,372.00; the municipal share being \$4,728,557. This represents -7.8% from 2009 which was achieved through budget cuts and use of reserves.

*-Donna Dittaro, Chief Administrative Officer-*

### Quote of the Day:

**"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."**

Sir Winston Churchill

## Ontario Works

The following Training Certificates are offered FREE of charge in the Ontario Works Resource Centre to our recipients:

WHMIS, Service Excellence, Smart Serve, Housekeeping Room Attendant Training (to be arranged) & Life Skills.

We also offer employment placement activities which include the provision of hiring assistance, screening and matching services to employers, job development and employer outreach.



We have Employment Placement with Incentives program. These incentives are available for up to a maximum of six months and include: human resource follow-up services, WSIB or Accident Insurance Coverage and financial incentives.

For more information, contact Krista Ballard, Employment Support Worker (extension 310).

~Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager~

## Children's Services

### Children's Services – Early Learning Program (ELP)

Premier Dalton McGuinty announced in October of 2009 the Provinces implementation of the Early Learning Program in Ontario. This program will be initiated over a period of 5 years beginning with phase one of school selections for September of 2010. Full implementation at all schools in the Province is slated for 2015.

Schools selected in the Rainy River District in Phase I of the September 2010/11 School Year are North Star and St. Patrick's schools in Atikokan.

Key components of this initiative are:

- Full day, every day, Early Learning for JK/SK age children in Ontario at schools.
- The full day would be from the period of 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the selected schools.
- Classrooms sizes would be to a maximum of 26 children with an Early Childhood Educator (ECE) and JK Teacher working together in the classroom.
- The option at the schools for an Extended Day Program from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. will be made available to parents and will be implemented if there are enough enrollments to make the Extended Day option viable.
- There will be a fee charged to parents for the before and after school extended day, with subsidies available to those families who qualify.

This program will be under the jurisdiction of the local school boards and Ministry of Education.

The RRDSSAB will be working closely with our local School Boards and Child Care Providers to coordinate child care programs and services in our communities as this initiative moves forward.



~Mildred Beck, Children's Services Manager~

## Social Housing

### Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Renewable Energy Initiative (REI)

On February 26, 2010, the Government of Canada and Ontario announced Energy Efficient Upgrades for Affordable Housing. The federal and provincial governments are contributing equally to this investment as part of the Government of Canada's funding announced under Canada's Economic Action Plan for Ontario. This will lead to improved energy efficiency and support the purchase and installation of renewable energy systems in existing and new affordable housing that are capable of generating energy and selling surplus energy back into electrical grid. The joint investment of more than \$1.2 billion over two years through an amendment to the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement was announced in June 2009. REI has been allocated \$120 million out of the \$1.2 billion. Renewable energy technology will include; solar photovoltaic (roof top system), solar water heating, solar air heating, geo-thermal, and micro-sized wind technology.



The RRDSSAB will work closely with Housing Providers throughout the Rainy River District to support REI and help promote green industry.

~Sandra Weir, Housing Manager~

## Land Ambulance



Renovations to the Rainy River Ambulance Station reached substantial completion on Monday March 1, 2010. The interior and exterior work has been

completed with only minor touch ups now remaining. Site grading will be completed as soon as the weather permits. Paramedic crews can now utilize the new addition, which means the 2<sup>nd</sup> ambulance can now be stored and used from the new ambulance bay. Previously the vehicle was stored outside with heaters through the winter and all items subject to freezing had to be removed every shift. The new addition boosts a full second ambulance bay, additional garage space for storage of the emergency trailer and a large store room for expendable medical supplies. Having the second vehicle stored inside means it is immediately available for up staffing in emergent situations that require additional resources.

~Dan McCormick, Health Services Manager~