



Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board

Board Chair 2013 Annual Report

2013 was a busy and productive year for the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) as we focused on the future provision of services for our district. Planning for the future and staff negotiations were the major accomplishments this year. Our annual budget was passed in March, which after much hard work and careful consideration provided the municipalities with a reduction of 1.02% on their share.

Our Collective Agreement with Paramedic staff and our agreement with office staff ended on December 31, 2013, so we began early in the year planning for the negotiation process. In April, I attended a presentation by the law firm of Hicks Morley in Toronto. This firm represents a majority of Paramedic Services across Ontario. We learned about current trends in Paramedic service contracts and reviewed many arbitration cases among other topics. I found this session very helpful when we negotiated in November. After several lengthy and successful negotiation sessions, we came to an agreement which was ratified at our December meeting. This agreement extends to December 31, 2017, which is further into the future than any EMS contract in Ontario. At the Hicks Morley presentation this year we were recognized for being leaders and congratulated for our work. We also negotiated with our non-union, non-management staff and came to an employment agreement which extends until December 31, 2019. These two lengthy agreements add to the stability of the organization and provide an opportunity to plan for the future.

In the summer of 2013, we began work on our 10-year Housing & Homelessness Plan. This Plan, with a three year implementation schedule, was adopted at our November meeting and forwarded to the Ministry for review. Similarly, we also commenced work on our 5-year Children's Services Plan which will be finalized in early 2014. The Board also approved the 2014 EMS Response Time Plan and reviewed standard timelines for rental unit turnovers in September 2013.

We had two changes on the Board this year. Our representative for the Eastern Unincorporated, Harold Mosley resigned in May and was replaced by Robert Burns. Late in the year, Chapple representative Rick Neilson stepped down and was replaced

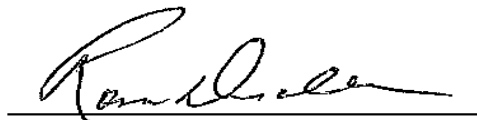
by James Gibson. We thank Harold and Rick for their work on the Board and welcome the new members.

In April, I accompanied several staff members to the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in North Bay. This was my second trip to the NOSDA AGM and once again, I found it an educational and useful experience. This is an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas, lobby Ministry personnel and speak with other District Social Service Administration Board members.

I would like to thank our staff for their work this year. They are caring, committed people and we are fortunate to have them working for our organization. I would also like to thank the board members for the time and effort they have expended. This is a complex organization and there is much for board members to consider when making decisions. I would like to thank Val Pizey, Lake of the Woods, Ken Perry, Town of Fort Frances and John Callan, Central Unincorporated representatives for their assistance and insight with staff negotiations. These were time consuming and difficult meetings and in many ways went above and beyond what is expected of volunteers.

We look forward to continuing to provide services in a caring and efficient manner, meeting the needs of the district.

Respectfully submitted,



Ross Donaldson, Chair, RRDSSAB;

Township of LaVallee Representative