

Child Care

We have received a letter from the Minister of Children's & Youth's Services to clarify some of the misunderstanding surrounding the loss of federal funding for child care and to announce the Province's one-time investment of \$18 million for the 2010 - 11 fiscal year to stabilize the child care system.

Federal funding has been used since 2006 to sustain the new child care spaces created under Best Start; unfortunately, that federal funding source runs out March 31, 2010, placing several child care spaces in our province and district at-risk. Fortunately, the Province has announced a one-time investment to allow families to maintain their child care arrangements beyond March 31st. In the interim, the Province will continue to advocate for the re-instatement of federal funding of child care and we will work with our local MPPs and municipalities to voice our concerns to the federal government so that our district children can be provided with the best possible start in life and their parents can attend school or work.

Social Housing

Members of the Board and staff were given an opportunity to meet with the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing to discuss local issues, particularly the need for assisted living in our district and the need to extend our deadline for the Northern Home Repair Program.

We did inform Minister Watson of our recent proposal to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing seeking funding to convert units within the existing Riverview Manor in Rainy River, to provide a form of "assisted living" in that community – a proposal which was developed by a team of district and regional professionals, consumers, and municipal staff and council members.

We have since received a letter from the Minister approving our deadline extension for the Northern Home Repair Program and have been informed that our *Riverview Manor: Aging at Home Proposal* is being reviewed and we will be notified of the Minister's decision "in the near future". We look forward to a favorable outcome.

Enabling Accessibility Fund

Judy Koski, Administrative Assistant has prepared and submitted a funding proposal to Human Resources & Skills Development Canada under the *Small Projects Enabling Accessibility Program* to secure lever door handles, grab bars and an automatic door opener for the main office building at 450 Scott Street. A big thank you to Judy for her initiative and work on this project! We are looking forward to hearing from HRDC.

Land Ambulance

Congratulations to Dan McCormick, Health Services Manager; Ed Carlson & Trevor Johnson, Paramedic Supervisors; Shelley Van Uden, EMS Clerk; Joanne Spence, Personnel & Policy Officer; and members of the EMS and DSSAB staff who participated in the Ambulance Service Review. I am pleased to report that the Rainy River District EMS meets the certification criteria and the legislated requirements. Accordingly, the Rainy River District EMS was issued a renewed Certificate to operate an ambulance service. Thank you!

Human Resources

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

Name	Title	Status	Start/Effective Date
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Riki Manuge	Integrated Intake Worker	PFT replacement	08 June/09
Charles Walker Smith	Maintenance/Custodian Assistant - Summer Student	Student - Atikokan	25 May/09

Welcome to our summer students!

Respectfully Submitted,
/d Dittaro