



# Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board

## **Board Chair 2014 Annual Report**

In January I was honoured to be selected to chair the RRDSSAB board for the fourth year and pleased to have Val Pizey chosen as vice-chair. Val did an excellent job as vice-chair through a very difficult first year of this term and I was happy to have her in that position for the final year. The upcoming election and questions of what it could do to the board was in many members' minds throughout the year. Discussions about how business would be conducted in the future, was often a topic of debate as we considered changing to daytime meetings and restoring the committee structure of the past.

As usual, the budget was the major business through the first part of the year. After much work and discussion we passed the budget at our March meeting. In an interesting twist, some members who had traditionally supported other budgets, voted against this one and some members who had often voted against budgets in the past, voted in favour.

Social Housing consumed a large portion of this year's consideration as we continued to discuss vacancies, lack of funding, capital work required, apartment readiness time frames and Non-Profit Provider Management Agreements.

We approved a Five Year Children's Services Plan in March which will direct our work in that program and help with planning consistency in the future.

We launched a Community Paramedicine program which will be a great benefit to our district and make use of resources we currently have in place.

After several delays, Ontario Works finally began the switch to the new SAMS program. This changeover has been difficult and staff continue to work to overcome the ongoing issues.

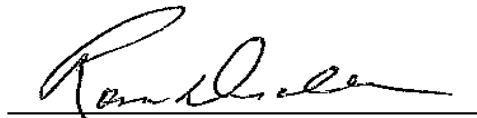
Lobbying efforts continued as I met with various Provincial Ministry representatives and other DSSAB staff and board members. I attended my third NOSDA AGM, this time in Sault Ste. Marie, and renewed many acquaintances. We continued to take an active role in this organization. In 2014, we put forward three resolutions. One was removed by the resolution committee but the other two were passed. On the way home from

that meeting I was given a tour of the Thunder Bay DSSAB office by their CAO. It was an enjoyable and enlightening tour. I had a chance to meet several staff and we talked about how they conduct their day to day business. Although they are much larger, the problems encountered are much the same as ours and it was interesting to hear some of their solutions.

As the term ended we said goodbye to four long-time members of this board Dennis Brown, Gary Gamsby, Wade Dessere and John Callan. As well as Archie Wiersema, who had been with us for this full term. All of these gentlemen should be applauded for the work and commitment over their years of service. Those returning members and the new members of the board should also be given the thanks of the entire district. It is no small task to balance the delivery of these important services with the constant struggle to ensure financial sustainability of the district communities.

In closing, I would like to thank the board for having the confidence to elect me for four terms as chairman. I firmly believe this organization is in a far stronger position than it was at the beginning of the term. We should be proud of what we accomplished but we must realize there is always work to do to maintain our excellence and more importantly there is always room for improvement.

Respectfully submitted,



Ross Donaldson, Chair, RRDSSAB;  
Township of LaVallee Representative