



Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board

Media Release

Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board Finalizes 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan

Fort Frances, Ontario – 2014/04/24 - 10:30 am In June of 2013, the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) retained OrgCode Consulting Inc. to assist with the development of a 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan for the Rainy River District. The Plan is a requirement of the Government of Ontario as set out under the *Housing Services Act* (HSA). The completed Plan was approved by the RRDSSAB Board of Directors in November of 2013 and forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for review.

Laurie LeBlanc, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, commended the RRDSSAB for a detailed plan, which took a systemic view of housing and homelessness within our District. The Ministry observed that the Plan was built on extensive research and consultation with the community, service providers and those with lived experience. The focus on Housing first principles and the importance of partnerships in a coordinated system based on prevention were also recognized.

“The Board is very satisfied with the Housing & Homelessness Plan’s detailed assessment and strategic targets,” stated Ross Donaldson, Board Chair, “We look forward to progressing with the implementation of the recommended measures within our fiscal mandate.”

The Rainy River District 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan clarifies the District’s housing needs now and into the future. It also provides a comprehensive overview of the current service system and demands faced. Our district’s local realities and needs were identified through empirical research combined with an extensive community engagement process which included surveys, one on one interviews and community consultations in three of our local municipalities; Rainy River, Atikokan and Fort Frances.

Seven Strategic Targets were identified, each with its own set of objectives and recommended measures. The overarching recommendation of the Plan is that the Rainy River District should invest in change, reprioritize and continue to evaluate effectiveness.

“We are extremely pleased with the outcome of the Housing and Homelessness Plan”, stated Sandra Weir, Integrated Services Manager (Housing Lead). “It has been a lengthy process, however, ensuring that our community needs were being noted was extremely important and I’m happy to say that it’s reflected in the Plan”.

The next step for the RRDSSAB is to share the plan with community partners and members, and then move forward with the three year implementation plan.

The RRDSSAB 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan is available on the RRDSSAB website under the media tab at www.rrdssab.on.ca.

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Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure newsworthy events are communicated to the residents and visitors of the Rainy River District. For more information on the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan for the Rainy River District, please contact:

Sandra Weir, Integrated Service Manager
RRDSSAB

Phone (807)274-5349 ext. 230
Email: sandraw@rrdssab.on.ca, or

Dan McCormick, CAO
RRDSSAB

Phone: 807-274-5349 ext. 238
Email: dmccorm@rrdssab.on.ca