

RRDSSAB NEWS



Main Office: 206 Scott Street ~ Fort Frances ~ On ~ P9A 1G7 ~ Phone (807) 274-5349 ~ Toll free 1-800-265-5349 ~ Fax (807) 274-0678

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

This Issues Highlights...

- Land Ambulance News
- New Location
- RRDSSAB Board Members
- **NEW** RRDSSAB Web-site
- Child Care Update
- Thought for the Day
- Ontario Works Update
- Social Housing Update
- Financial Assistance Information
- RRDSSAB Annual Staff Meeting

Land Ambulance News

The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board is continuing its fight to secure appropriate funding from the Province for the Land Ambulance Program. Presently, the Province is not covering its share of wages, benefits and operation costs, as agreed to at transition in 2000. This shortfall in funding is presently being paid by the municipal taxpayers across the District. Meetings with the Ministry and RRDSSAB are ongoing in attempts to secure further funding.

Our Land Ambulance Service Providers, Riverside Health Care Facilities and Atikokan General Hospital, have just completed their Service Review by the Regulatory and Compliance section of the Ministry of Health, Emergency Health Services Branch. Successful completion of the Service Review is required for each Operator to remain certified to provide Ambulance Service. Initial reports from the Review team indicates that both Operators continue to meet or exceed the Standards and recertification will be granted. Congratulations to both Providers!

Another heliport is being considered for the District of Rainy River. The RRDSSAB and representatives of several stakeholders including Abitibi-Consolidated, Riverside Health Care Facilities Inc, Town of Fort Frances, Fort Frances Fire & Rescue, Riverside Ambulance, Ministry of Health, and Canadian Helicopters met on June 22nd. Discussions took place on the feasibility of a heliport adjacent to the Riverside Health Care Facility, LaVendrye site in Fort Frances. A heliport at the hospital would provide access to the Provincial Air Ambulance System and expedite patient care both into and out of the facility. This would result in quicker access to care and help to ensure continued Land Ambulance emergency coverage in our outlying communities. Initial discussions appeared very favorable. Further approvals are being sought and additional stakeholder meetings are being planned.

~Dan McCormick, Health Services Manager

New Location

The Land Ambulance Office has moved to 206 Scott Street (main RRDSSAB office). The phone number to reach Dan McCormick, Health Services Manager, will now be (807) 274-5349, ext. 33 and the fax is (807) 274-0678.



RRDSSAB Board Members

Alberton:	Barb Cournoyer
Atikokan:	Dennis Brown
Chapple:	Peter Van Heyst
Dawson:	Linda Armstrong
Emo:	Russ Fortier (Chair)
Fort Frances:	Tannis Drysdale
Lake of the Woods:	Valarie Pizey
LaVallee:	Emily Watson
Morley:	Gary Gamsby
Rainy River:	Glen Armstrong
Rainy River East:	Michael Lewis
Rainy River Central:	John Callan (Vice-Chair)
Rainy River West:	Wade Desserre

excellence in Governance

Visit our New Web-site...
www.rrdssab.ca



Child Care Update

Congratulations to the TOWNSHIP OF EMO in developing the *Emo Children's Charter!* This Charter falls in line with the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* which was signed by Canada which states that: "In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration." (Article 3.1)



Coming Together for Kids a Rainy River District Community Coalition has developed a presentation for Municipalities to assist in developing a Children's Charter. This Community Coalition can also assist Municipalities to develop practices to ensure the needs of Children and impact are considered before making decisions for their communities.

If you would like more information on developing a Children's Charter for your community, please contact:

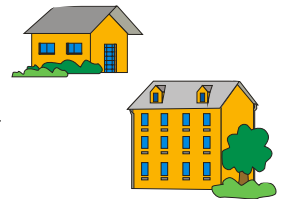
Kim Gardiman, Children's Services Manager, RRDSSAB
Coming Together for Kids, Coalition Member
 1(800)265-5349 ext. 20; or

Anne Marie Vanderaa, Public Health Nurse - NWHU
 Chairperson, *Coming Together for Kids*
 (807)482-2211.

~ Kim Gardiman, Children's Services Manager

Social Housing Update

The RRDSSAB is committed to working with our Social Housing Providers, and community partners, to ensure that relevant Social Housing legislation is adhered to and that tenants are served well. To assist in this regard, the RRDSSAB held the second in a series of training workshops: *Landlord Rights and Obligations* on June 27, 2005, in partnership with the Rainy River District Community Legal Clinic.



Thirty participants attended and learned about their responsibilities, rights, and obligations, as they pertain to relevant legislation including the Tenant Protection Act. Through the use of role-playing, participants also gained knowledge of how to work with tenants to avoid evictions where possible, and how to navigate through the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal process.

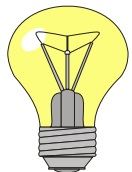
The RRDSSAB held the second in a series of training workshops

We would like to thank Trudy McCormick and Laurie Nuttal of the Rainy River District Community Legal Clinic for their involvement in the workshop.

In addition, the RRDSSAB also held a *Fire Codes and Regulations* workshop in February, 2005. Further workshops will be offered by the RRDSSAB with the aim of providing support and training to Social Housing Providers in the District.

~Cathe Hoszowski, Social Housing Manager

Thought for the Day...



Dreams in life may seem impossible. They are not. Impossible dreams are achieved one goal at a time...

~ Herman Cain

Ontario Works Update

Changes have been made to the Ontario Works program as a result of regulation amendments to:

Living with parents rule Earnings Exemptions and other transitions to employment supports Allowing families on social assistance to keep the July 2004 and July 2005 National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) increases - the amount of the increases will not be deducted from social assistance payments.



Employment Support Worker will be recruiting placements for FF Bass Tournament, 40th Anniversary Outers Reunion (Atikokan),

Workshops: Job Club, Resume Development, Smart Serve, Budgeting, True Colours workshop will be offered once again August 8 to 14/05.

~ Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager



Are you in need of financial assistance?
 Atikokan Call 597-1431
 All Other Areas Call 274-5349

Annual Staff Meeting

The RRDSSAB held their Annual Staff Meeting on Wednesday, June 29, 2005 from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.



Staff were provided with updates on the Ontario Works, Children's Services, Land Ambulance, and Social Housing Programs, as well as updates on new policies, and technical information. Discussions were held regarding staff programs that have been established. Long-term Service Awards were presented to four employees in recognition of their valuable contributions and long-term service, as follows: Donna Ditaro (5 years); Gary Godin (5 years); Shelley Shute (5 years); and Marie Howells (10 years).

~Joanne Spence, Personnel & Policy Officer