

RRDSSAB NEWS



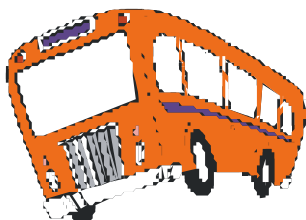
Main Office: 206 Scott Street ~ Fort Frances ~ On ~ P9A 1G7 ~ Phone (807) 274-5349 ~ Toll free 1-800-265-5349 ~ Fax (807) 274-0678

This Issues Highlights...

- LAND Ambulance News
- New Location
- Ontario Works Update
- Emergency Rent Bank Fund
- Financial Assistance Info
- Best Start Update
- Thought for the Day

New Location

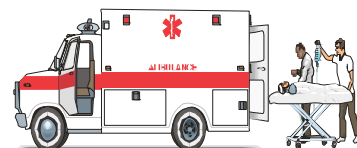
The Child Care Department has moved. Kim Gardiman, Children's Services Manager, can be reached by telephone at (807) 274-3042 or by fax at (807) 274-1777.



Land Ambulance News



The RRDSSAB is pleased to announce that on April 29th, at the annual General Meeting of the Ontario Paramedic Association – Northwest Chapter (OPANWC), Ms. Gabriel Emond, Paramedic with Riverside Ambulance Service, was honoured with the presentation of the OPANWC Exemplary Service Award. Gaby, as she is known to her friends and co-workers, was recognized for her long standing commitment to the training & mentoring of Paramedics and devotion to the profession.



A new Demers dual stretcher ambulance has rolled into service in Fort Frances. The new vehicle has an enhanced emergency lighting system, more space and improved equipment storage. Light emitting diodes and strobes make this vehicle difficult to miss in an emergency situation. It is currently being used primarily as a patient transfer vehicle, providing further comfort to patients and improved safety and working environment for our dedicated paramedics.



Atikokan Emergency Medical Services recently made news by arranging and participating in a mock multi-vehicle accident. The accident was staged in front of the Atikokan High School using local students as casualties. The scenario was designed to impart a clear message regarding the hazard, risks and outcomes of drinking and driving to the on-looking students, faculty, and public.



Thanks to the Ontario Provincial Police, Atikokan Fire Department, Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving (OSAID) and the Atikokan General Hospital for their participation in the exercise and adding to the sense of realism. We also thank Northwest EMS for their assistance with the provision of casualty simulation and emergency vehicles.

~Dan McCormick, Health Services Manager

RRDSSAB Board Members

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

excellence in Governance

Ontario Works Update



The Ontario Works Program has many changes:

- Effective 2006, funding will be based on moving people to employment; and
- Effective April 1, 2006, Ontario Works will provide improved access to employment services to non-disabled spouses of ODSP recipients.

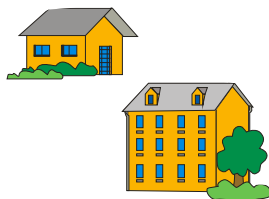
New training opportunities for participants include:

- Service Excellence Training is being offered to our participants by our Employment Support Worker who is a designated trainer through the Ontario Tourism Education Corporation. Service Excellence focuses on developing your customer service strengths and working within a team to provide the ultimate service experience for your guests. The skills you learn in this program are the fundamentals of being a great service professional.

Employers are asked to contact the Employment Support Worker if they have any employment opportunities available and would like to hire a pre-screened and job-ready employee.

~ Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager

Emergency Rent Bank Fund



The RRDSSAB, together with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, is providing funding for short-term rent arrears to residents in the Rainy River District. Rent Bank funding can help tenants avoid eviction and is available for residents with low incomes who, due to an unforeseen crisis, miss rent payments. The Fund was established by the Ontario Government in 2004 and funds were allocated to Municipal Service Managers province-wide.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties and are unable to pay your rent and in the process of being evicted, you may qualify for emergency Rent Bank funding. For more information, contact Michelle Korpi, Tenant Placement Coordinator, at (807) 274-5349 ext 31, or drop in to pick up an *Application* at 206 Scott Street in Fort Frances or the Rawn Road Centre in Atikokan.

If you or someone you know is looking for affordable rent-geared-to-income housing, we have three and four bedroom family homes, and one-bedroom seniors apartments available in Atikokan. If you are interested in these homes/apartments, or would like to know about other units somewhere else in the Rainy River District, please contact Michelle Korpi, Tenant Placement Coordinator, at 274-5349 ext 31, or toll-free at 1-800-265-5349 ext 31.

~Cathe Hoszowski, Social Housing Manager



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

Best Start Child Care News



Community partners have worked diligently to plan and implement key components of Best Start which represents a long term vision by system wide transformation and design. The Phase 1 Best Start Integration Implementation Plans for Ontario are a major accomplishment and represent the largest multi-sectoral, community-driven, system-wide planning process in the area of early learning and care.

2006 Ontario Budget:

Using the 2005 Early Learning and Child Care funds, Ontario Municipalities plan to create more than 14,000 spaces by September 2006 (more than half of the 3 year target of 25,000 spaces). Without the Federal funds for 2007 onwards, Ontario will not be able to meet the 25,000 space target.

Using 2006-2007 federal funding, Ontario will secure and sustain the newly created spaces undertaken to date.

The Provincial Government will continue to call on the Federal Government to honor the five year, 1.9 billion dollar Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

Focus of Investment of Federal Funding:

The focus of this funding is to secure and sustain the expansion of 14,000 new child care spaces (up and running by Sept. 2006) through fee subsidy, wage subsidy, special needs resourcing and administration funds. Other priorities for investments include funding program integration for the demonstration hub sites across Ontario, funding wage improvements and supporting quality initiatives related to Early Learning and Child Care.

In regards to the Early Learning and Care Hubs, there continues to be strong support for the implementation of hubs, however concrete details with respect to hub implementation were limited—networks identified need for further provincial direction regarding hub implementation and funding.

There continues to be strong support for implementation

~ Kim Gardiman, Children's Services Manager

Thought for the Day...

By the time we realize our parents were right, we have children who think we're wrong.

~ Guillermo Hernandez

