



Media Release

Rainy River DSSAB 2018 Budget

Fort Frances, Ontario – 2017/12/19 – 10:00 The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) approved the 2018 Annual Budget of ~\$22.95 Million at the Regular Board meeting held Thursday December 14th, 2017. The overall budget reflects an increase of ~1.65% on costs to the Municipalities.

The 2018 Approved Budget is reflected below:

	2017	2018
• Ontario Works	\$ 3.15 M	\$ 2.95 M
• Children’s Services	\$ 3.45 M	\$ 4.70 M
• Emergency Medical Services	\$ 7.34 M	\$ 7.62 M
• Social Housing	\$ 5.94 M	\$ 7.03 M
• Central Administration	\$ 0.64 M	\$ 0.65 M
Total Budget	\$20.52 M	\$22.95 M

Capital expenditures included within the 2018 Budget total ~\$816,500. This includes repairs to substructures in social housing family units, upgrades to financial software, conversion of a duplex unit to a four-plex, shingles, eaves trough, and flooring replacements on social housing units, upgrades to Information Technology and a new ambulance with a power load stretcher system. Many of these projects are funded from restricted reserves and do not directly impact the municipal share.

“I am impressed,” stated Ross Donaldson, Vice-Chair, “This is the first budget that has been passed prior to the start of the budget year and was unanimously supported by the members present; congratulations to the members. With the continued increase of funding from the Province for Children’s Services, Social Housing and completion of the uploading of Ontario Works, we are in great shape and can continue to focus on further service improvements at reduced costs to our municipalities.”

During 2018, the RRDSSAB will continue to focus on identifying and addressing homelessness, developing a long term strategy for our housing units, and improving childcare services.

Ken Perry, Chair, stated, “The staff and management continue to seek funding and work for improvements to our programs, Housing & Homelessness, Childcare, Ontario Works and Land Ambulance. We are extremely pleased with the increases in 100% Provincial Funding for Children’s Services, new capital funding for our housing program and the upload of Ontario Works. Once again this made the budget easy to support for the members.”

"We anticipate that Provincial funding will be forthcoming to address the Land Ambulance non-urgent transfers in the near future and look forward to ensuring that our taxpayers have equitable access to services at an affordable cost," noted Perry.

Overall, the 2018 Approved Budget was increased by ~\$2.43M dollars from the 2017 Approved Budget. Once again the majority of the increases are reflective of 100% Provincial Funding, particularly for Children's Services and Housing.

Ontario Works decreased, ~\$200K, primarily due to the continued upload of costs to the Province.

Children's Services experienced an increase of ~\$1.25M, primarily due to additional 100% Provincial Funding representing the Provinces continued focus on "Early ON" and improving access to quality childcare.

Land Ambulance increased by ~\$280K, representing general economic increases.

Social Housing expenditures increased by ~\$1.09M for 2018, which is primarily funding for the new eight-plex Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH), currently being constructed in Fort Frances.

"The Staff, Management and Board continue to lobby at every opportunity for increased funding, equitable funding formulas and improvements for our service delivery," CAO Dan McCormick stated, "We have many initiatives currently in progress and continue to work with the Province to recognize and address the Northern Issues, regarding service delivery and costs. I would like to take this time to thank the staff and management for their continued hard work and dedication to our programs and the people in our communities."

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We are glad to provide you with information on newsworthy events. Please assist us in our continuing efforts to meet the needs of the citizens in our district. Thank you.

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