



Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board

450 Scott Street
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 1H2

Ph: (807) 274-5349
Fax: (807) 274-0678
Toll Free: 1-800-265-5349

- Children's Services
- Land Ambulance
- Ontario Works
- Social Housing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2018

Homelessness Being Targeted Across Rainy River District

The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) has approved the allocation of 2018-2019 Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative funds to local agencies in pursuit of the goal of ending homelessness. The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) is a 100% provincially funded program created in 2013 that focuses on the outcomes of preventing homelessness and housing the homeless population. Locally, the issue of homelessness has been gaining attention in the Rainy River District, and the issue is expected to become more visible with warm weather upon the district.

The RRDSSAB received \$365,092 in 2018-2019 from the province to be used towards services and supports in pursuit of ending homelessness in the district. The Atikokan Youth Initiatives will see the largest approval of funds at \$67,000. The youth centre is the only such centre in the District, and offers ongoing development and delivery of youth-driven services in collaboration with others to promote skill development and empower youth to make healthy lifestyle choices.

“To experience something so frightening and isolating as homelessness during a young person’s formative years is inconceivable,” said Sandra Weir, Integrated Services Manager (Housing Lead) at the RRDSSAB. “We are very excited to be working with Atikokan Youth Initiatives on addressing youth homelessness,” she added.

The centre intends to use the funds toward expanded hours and programming, and to be able to offer basic necessities to barriered youth who may not have access to regular provisions or hygiene items.

The RRDSSAB also approved allocation of funds to the United Native Friendship Centre and Rainy River District Victim Services Program and to its own homelessness program to use toward assisting homeless individuals get access to temporary accommodations, transportation to shelter, assist the recently homeless obtain basic necessities, among others. Other recipients include the Salvation Army to assist with transportation to shelters and access to basic necessities.

Individuals or families who are currently homeless or at risk of homelessness are encouraged to visit the RRDSSAB at 450 Scott Street in Fort Frances, Rawn Road Centre in Atikokan, visit www.rrdssab.ca or call 807-274-5349 to learn what supports may be available.

-30-

For more information, please contact Sandra Weir, Integrated Services Manager at sandraw@rrdssab.on.ca or 807-274-5349 ext. 230.