



DISTRICT OF RAINY RIVER SERVICES BOARD

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• Children's Services • Paramedic Services • Ontario Works • Community Housing

Highlights

From the November 20, 2025 regular board meeting

In an effort to keep the community informed, we're pleased to share the key highlights from the regular board meeting held on November 20, 2025.

Please find a summary of the key takeaways below:

- Sandra Weir, Housing & Homelessness Prevention Manager, and Brenda Witherspoon-Bedard, Homelessness Community Engagement Coordinator, presented the results of the Community Housing Tenant Survey completed in fall 2025. Overall results included tenants reporting feeling safe, satisfied with their housing, and supported by DRRSB staff.
- Chief of Paramedic Services, Joshua Colling, reported a continued focus on stabilization, with down-staffing decreasing and overall service reliability improving. He credits recent recruitment gains and ongoing modernization efforts as contributing factors.
- Charene Gillies, CAO, shared that Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) is exploring a partnership with EllisDon Community Builders focused on taking a coordinated, regional approach to developing new affordable housing. The Board directed administration to continue participating in this exploratory work, including identifying potential opportunities across the Rainy River District for inclusion within the regional portfolio.
- Leanne Gurski, Director of Finance and Infrastructure, provided an update on insurance services with administration accepting the proposal from IPE through Westland for the 2025-26 year.
- The Beam Group presented the *Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan 2026-2030* and the Board approved the new plan, in addition to supporting administration in its implementation of the plan in alignment with the DRRSB Strategic Plan.

- The Board ratified the renewal of the Collective Agreement between the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 4807-01 commencing January 1, 2025 up to and including December 31, 2028.
- An overview of Ontario's 'Strong Mayor' powers was presented, highlighting potential implications for District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSAB)s.
- The Board directed administration to gather information about program funding as it relates to the whole of the district population to inform planning and decision-making.

Next Meeting - The next meeting of the District of Rainy River Services Board will be held in person at 10:00 a.m. on December 18, 2025.