



# DISTRICT OF RAINY RIVER SERVICES BOARD

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

## Highlights

### From the January 15, 2026 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 January 15, 2026.

Please find a summary of the key takeaways below:

- Deb Ewald and Andrew Hallikas were acclaimed as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.
- Tanis Fretter, Children's Services & Income Support Manager, provided an update on plans related to the Start-Up Grant (SUG) and Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund to support child care expansion. These plans include issuing a feasibility study for the Fifth & Frenette property to look at creating 73 new child care spaces for children aged 0-4.
- The Board agreed to update Board Remuneration Policy (G-3.2) to better align with the DRRSB Strategic Plan and strengthen fiscal responsibility.
- No changes were made to the Committee Lists for the upcoming year.
- Leanne Gurski, Director of Finance & Infrastructure, presented an updated draft of the 2026 budget, and after some discussion, a recorded vote was held. The approved budget is as follows:

| <b>Department</b>      | <b>Budget Amount</b> |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Ontario Works          | \$ 3,219,127         |
| Children's Services    | 14,474,835           |
| Paramedic Services     | 9,929,439            |
| Community Housing      | 7,960,444            |
| Central Administration | 3,019,113            |
|                        | <u>\$ 38,602,958</u> |

- CAO Charene Gillies shared an update on the NOSDA Northern Housing Strategy, explaining that to advance the housing development project, NOSDA must establish a new structure to receive, hold, and administer housing capital funding. As such, the Board agreed to enter into a new Association Agreement establishing the NOSDA Pooling Association, and also agreed to opt into, and execute, Pooling Agreements related to the Affordable Housing Innovation Fund (AHIF) and Build Canada Homes (BCH) should NOSDA be successful in receiving either.

**Next Meeting** - The next meeting of the District of Rainy River Services Board will be held virtually at 9:00 a.m. on February 19, 2026.