



DISTRICT OF RAINY RIVER SERVICES BOARD

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

Highlights

From the March 19, 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 March 19, 2026.

The Board received:

- An annual privacy and access-to-information overview under MFIPPA and PHIPA as part of its oversight role for legal compliance, risk management, and public accountability. The report noted that privacy and access requests remain low, with most requests relating to Ambulance Call Reports. All requests were handled within legislated timelines, and there were no appeals, privacy complaints, or reportable privacy breaches during the reporting period.
- Human Resources' report on activity in the second half of 2025 to provide oversight of organizational capacity, workforce planning, and staff support across the DRRSB. The report highlighted implementation of the organizational realignment previously shared with the Board, along with staff development initiatives, recruitment efforts, and staffing changes intended to strengthen the organization and support service delivery.
- A report from Chief Colling noting that the Rainy River District Paramedic Service successfully completed the Ministry of Health Land Ambulance Service Review and has been recertified to continue operating until January 1, 2029.
- A report from CAO Charene Gillies presenting implementation results on the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan so the Board could see the progress made against established commitments. The update showed that Year 1 focused on building the foundation for longer-term results through stronger planning and reporting, workforce and digital improvements to support efficiency, more integrated service thinking, strategic advocacy, and advancement of housing and redevelopment opportunities.
- An update on housing security and tenant safety to monitor progress on concerns that had previously been raised and to support continued improvement in tenant well-being. Michelle Shute, Infrastructure Manager, reported that security cameras have now been

installed at three properties, with additional cameras planned as part of ongoing safety enhancements. Sandra Weir, Housing & Homelessness Prevention Manager, added that a pilot project has increased staff presence in buildings during evening hours, allowing staff to engage with tenants, identify safety concerns, and monitor for inappropriate activity. Consideration is being given to extending or expanding the pilot next year.

- Chair Deb Ewald's report on the ROMA Conference attended in January with Board Member James Gibson and CAO Charene Gillies. The four delegations with Provincial Ministers and Parliamentary Assistants created focused opportunities to raise awareness of the DRRSB's work and the realities faced by small and rural municipalities across the Rainy River District.
- Governance and Policy Committee Chair Andrew Hallikas' report summarizing proposed by-law changes. The proposed by-laws were provided for information only at this stage so Board members could review the changes in advance of a formal approval decision planned for the May meeting. This step supports informed decision-making and allows time for careful consideration of governance updates.

The Board approved

- The 2026 Apportionment as presented. This annual decision is required to confirm how the municipal levy will be apportioned among member municipalities and territories for the coming year, supporting the DRRSB's budget and service delivery responsibilities across the district.
- Attendance at the 2026 NOSDA AGM in North Bay, June 9–11, with Rob Ferguson and Deb Ewald appointed as DRRSB Board representatives.
- Attendance at the 2026 Grand Council Treaty #3 Housing Summit, with Deb Ewald and Andrew Hallikas attending as DRRSB Board representatives. Attendance supports ongoing relationship building and demonstrates the DRRSB's continued commitment to the 2022 Memorandum of Understanding signed by Grand Council Treaty #3, the Kenora District Services Board, and the District of Rainy River Services Board.

Next Meeting - The next meeting of the District of Rainy River Services Board will be held virtually at 9:00 a.m. on April 16, 2026.