

RRDSSAB NEWS



Main Office: 206 Scott Street ~ Fort Frances ~ On ~ P9A 1G7 ~ Phone (807) 274-5349 ~ Toll free 1-800-265-5349 ~ Fax (807) 274-0678

This Issues Highlights...

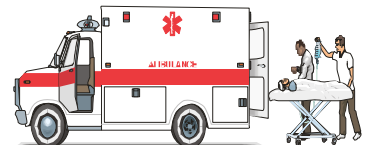
- Land Ambulance News
- Merry Christmas!
- RRDSSAB Board Members
- Congratulations
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- Best Start Update
- Social Housing News
- Ontario Works Update
- Child Care Fee Subsidy

Seasons Greetings



From the Staff, Management and Board at the RRDSSAB!

Land Ambulance News



On **January 1, 2007**, the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) assumes direct delivery of Land Ambulance Services across the District of Rainy River. Service to the public will not be interrupted or discontinued.

Riverside Health Care Facilities Inc. and Atikokan General Hospital have provided service with Ambulance Bases located in Fort Frances, Emo, Rainy River, and Atikokan employing approximately fifty Paramedics, on behalf of the RRDSSAB. The RRDSSAB will continue to provide service through Bases located in the same communities, while retaining all Paramedic staff. We wish to assure the public that we are working together to ensure a smooth transition. The quality of service will remain. The RRDSSAB would like to thank Atikokan General Hospital and Riverside Health Care Facilities Inc. for their many years of dedication in providing Land Ambulance Services.

The RRDSSAB received Certification from the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care (MoHLTC) on 26 October, 2006. We will be operating under the name Rainy River District Emergency Medical Services with Service Identification Number of 746.

In preparation of assuming the Paramedic staff, a *Transition Agreement* was negotiated between the RRDSSAB and CUPE 4807 on Wednesday, November 29th. The building located at 801 Scott Street was purchased for the use of an Ambulance Base; Requests for Proposals for renovations will be received by January 3, 2007. We have received approval to make minor variances from the Town of Frances to permit the required aprons for ambulance access, side & rear yard setbacks and minimum landscape area. We purchased the existing Ambulance Base in Rainy River effective December 15, 2006.

The RRDSSAB would like to welcome the Paramedics to our organization. We look forward to working with you.

Congratulations Dan!

Dan McCormick, Health Services Manager was presented with a Governor General's Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal on September 22, 2006. Congratulations on your achievement, Dan!



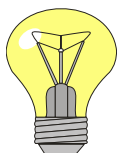
RRDSSAB Board Members

Alberton:	Barb Cournoyer
Atikokan:	Dennis Brown
Chapple:	Peter Van Heyst
Dawson:	Linda Armstrong
Emo:	Gary Judson
Fort Frances:	Tannis Drysdale (Vice-Chair)
Lake of the Woods:	Valarie Pizey (Chair)
LaVallee:	Emily Watson
Morley:	Gary Gamsby
Rainy River:	Debbie Ewald
Rainy River East:	Michael Lewis
Rainy River Central:	John Callan
Rainy River West:	Wade Desserre

excellence in Governance

Thought for the Day...

Rudeness is the weak man's imitation of strength.
~ Eric Hoffer



Best Start Update

The Best Start Network welcomes Debby Cousineau as Co-Chair to the Network. Debby is the Program Manager for Speech/Language and Hearing Services in the Kenora/Rainy River area.



In keeping with the plan for moving forward with Best Start, the Best Start Network revised their Terms of Reference and made applicable changes to reflect the varying structure of the Initiative. A major component of moving forward is the integration of services. Using the information gathered through community consultation and the strategic planning session the Best Start Network will identify mechanisms to reach their goal of integration.

The Rainy River Best Start Network was pleased to accept an invitation to present on our Program at the Provincial Best Star Forum in Toronto on November 15, 2006. Ann Anderson, Chair, Debby Cousineau, Co-Chair and Leanne Mineault, OEYC, joined Jeannette Cawston, the Best Start Coordinator, in representing our District. Ann and Jeannette presented to all 47 Best Start Networks on our plan to move forward with service integration.

Those attending will present a brief overview of the Forum for the Network at its Dec. 14th meeting.

~ Kim Gardiman, Children's Services Manager

Social Housing News



We currently have one-bedroom apartments available in Fort Frances and Rainy River for people looking for Housing - apartments include all utilities. If you or someone you know requires affordable housing, please contact Michelle Korpi, Tenant Placement Coordinator toll free at 800-265-5349 ext 31, or at 274-5349 ext 31.

The new Residential Tenancies Act, 2006 takes effect January 31, 2007 and replaces the Tenant Protection Act, 2000. The new legislation is intended to provide balanced protection to tenants and landlords. In addition to the new Act, the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal will be replaced by the Landlord & Tenant Board. Information about the Act and the Landlord & Tenant Board will be available at all Service Ontario outlets, Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal Offices, Publications Ontario and online at www.mah.gov.on.ca

~Cathe Hoszowski, Social Housing Manager

Ontario Works Update

Ontario Works has worked through many changes this year regarding the Employment Program. One important change is the improvement to the ODSP Program, which is a strategy to provide straightforward incentives and extra support to make it easier for clients to find work, keep more of what they earn and move forward toward financial independence. The Ontario Works Employment Support Worker is working with non-disabled, non-caregivers and dependant adults of these benefit units to connect people with disabilities and their families with competitive, sustainable employment.

Ontario Works is looking for employers who are in need of hiring job ready participants for the year 2007. If you have openings available, or have any questions regarding employment related matters, please contact Krista Ballard, Employment Support Worker, at 274-4641 to see how she can help fill your needs.

~ Krista Ballard, Employment Support Worker



Child Care Fee Subsidies in the Rainy River District

If you or someone you know requires financial assistance to cover the costs of Licensed Child Care – help may be available! Child Care Fee Subsidy assists those families whom require Child Care while they are involved in work, school, training programs etc. If available, subsidy can assist those families with children who have special care needs. If you require additional information, please contact Cheryl Bodnar, Data & Systems Coordinator at (807) 274-4375, or access information on our website at www.rrdssab.com.



Financial assistance may be available for Child Care (CC) Services in the Rainy River District in the following communities:

Licensed Child Care Sites

Atikokan: Rainbow CC Centre (807) 597-4517

Devlin: Country View CC Centre (807) 486-1264

Fort Frances: FF Children's Complex 274-5457
FF Private Home Day Care 274-6918

Rainy River: Learn, Laugh & Play Children's Centre (807) 852-4204

Licensed Nursery Schools

Atikokan: 2-3-4 Playgroup Inc. (807)597-1464

Fort Frances: Nursery School Inc. (807)274-5653

Rainy River: Playschool Inc. (807)852-3362

Ontario Early Years Centres/Family Resource Programs (OEYCs/FRPs)

OEYCs/FRPs offer a variety of parenting/caregiver supports to families in the Rainy River District. For more information, please contact a site near you:

Atikokan: Sundog Toy Lending Library & Parenting Resource Centre/OEYC @ (807) 597-1481

Emo: Toy Lending Resource Centre/OEYC @ (807) 482-2946

Fort Frances: Toy Lending & Family Resource Centre/OEYC @ (807) 274-8588

Rainy River: Toy Library & Resource Centre/OEYC @ (807) 852-3362

Stratton: Child Care Centre of Rural Stratton Inc./OEYC @ (807) (807) 483-5319

~Kim Gardiman, Children's Services Manager