



RRDSSAB NEWS



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This Issue's Highlights.....

- Children's Services Update
- Ontario Works Happenings
- RRDSSAB News
- RRDSSAB Housing Update
- Land Ambulance News

Children's Services Update

Fee Subsidy

Fee Subsidy is available to families who qualify for participation in Child Care Programs and Nursery School Programs in the Rainy River District. Fee Subsidy is financial support to assist with payment of child care fees in a licensed setting. You may qualify for full or partial subsidy.



The following are licensed Child Care Facilities in the Rainy River District:

ATIKOKAN

Atikokan Rainbow Centre (807) 597-4517

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

DEVLIN

Country View Child Care Centre (807) 486-1264

FORT FRANCES

Fort Frances Children's Complex (807) 274-5457

Fort Frances Private Home Day Care (807) 274-6918

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

Zaagi-idiwin Aboriginal Head Start Program (807)274-7244

RAINY RIVER

Learn, Laugh & Play Children's Centre (807) 852- 3362, Ext. 1

Contact the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) to see if you are eligible or for more information call (807) 274-5349 or Toll Free 1-800-265-5349.



Congratulations to the Eluik family on the safe arrival of Nicolas James. Born November 4th at 9:30 p.m. weighing 7 lbs. 9 oz. The family is doing great!

A big thank you to our Customer Service Representative, Wanda Norton, for caring for the beautiful flowers outside the RRDSSAB building this summer!



6th & Webster Outreach Services Program

The partnership for Outreach Services at 1018 Webster Avenue has been active since June of this year. The partnership lead agency is the Fort Frances Children's Complex/Best Start Hub services. Members of the partnership group are the Fort Frances Children's Complex, Northwestern Health Unit, Family and Children's Services, Sunset Country Metis, United Native Friendship Centre, Fort Frances Public Library, Fort Frances Museum and the Rainy River DSSAB.



For programming and a schedule of services available, please contact the Fort Frances Best Start Hub at (807) 274-8474. Input from families for requests for specific needs or programming at the site are welcome.

Minister of Children and Youth Services Appointment

Laurel Broten has been appointed as the New Minister of Children and Youth Services effective October 2009. Laurel is replacing Deb Matthews who has been appointed as the new Minister of Health and Long Term Care.

~Mildred Beck, Children's Services Manager

RRDSSAB Board Members

Alberton:	Mike Ford
Atikokan:	Dennis Brown
Chapple:	Rick Neilson
Dawson:	Linda Armstrong
Emo:	Gary Judson
Fort Frances:	Sharon Tibbs (vice-chair)
Lake of the Woods:	Valerie Pizey
LaVallee:	Ross Donaldson
Morley:	Gary Gamsby
Rainy River:	Debbie Ewald
Rainy River East:	Michael Lewis (chair)
Rainy River Central:	John Callan
Rainy River West:	Wade Desserre

Excellence in Governance

Ontario Works Happenings

In the 2009 Ontario Budget, the government announced a two per cent increase to social assistance rates.



To support this commitment, regulations were filed on October 2, 2009, to increase Ontario Works rates and asset limits. These changes will be effective December 1, 2009. The rates impacted by the increase are:

- Basic Needs
- Shelter
- Board and Lodging
- Applicants/Recipients Living with Parents
- Asset Limits

In addition to these, the following rates will also increase by two per cent:

- Dependents of Dependents
- Residents of Interval and Transition Homes
- Advanced Age Amount
- Special Boarder Allowance
- Guide Dog Benefit
- Temporary Care Assistance

~Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager

RRDSSAB News

Ontario has an important law called the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)*. This is the first of its kind in Canada. Its predecessor, *The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA)*, was introduced to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in life in the Province.

Under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, broader public sector organizations must meet requirements of accessibility standards for customer service, established by *Ontario Regulation 429/07*, effective January 1, 2010. This means ensuring that goods and services are provided in a manner which respects and maintains the dignity and independence of customers, integrating services and providing equal opportunities for persons with disabilities to obtain, use or benefit from the goods and services provided.

Accessible customer service can mean many things. Mostly, it is the understanding that each individual may need a different type of accommodation. When communicating with a person with a disability, do so in a manner that accommodates the person's disability.

~Joanne Spence, Personnel & Policy Officer

*Get your facts first and
then you can distort them all you please.*
Mark Twain 1835 - 1910

RRDSSAB Housing Update

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Rent Bank

In July 2009, the *Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board* (RRDSSAB) received an

additional \$7,500.00 to continue on with the Rent Bank Program throughout the Rainy River District for 2009/10.

The *Rent Bank* assists low-income families who have missed a rent payment to avoid eviction.

For Application and Eligibility requirements, contact the RRDSSAB at 274-5349.



Northern Home Repair Program

On September 11, 2009 the *Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing* confirmed that the RRDSSAB business case for funding under the Northern component of the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program (AHP) extension (2009) has been approved for program funding of \$125,000.00 in fiscal year 2009-10 and \$375,000 in fiscal year 2010-11.

The *Northern Home Repair Program (NHRP)* is available to qualifying applicants residing in the District of Rainy River. The *NHRP* assists home owners with affordability and housing problems so they can continue to live in their own home. The program provides financial assistance to repair or rehabilitate homes to a minimum level of health and safety, including features that increase accessibility and address mobility concerns.

For More Information call, the Metis Nation of Ontario at 1-800-891-5882 or the RRDSSAB at 274-5349.

~Sandra Weir, Housing Manager

Land Ambulance Events

In October, Rainy River District EMS welcomed six Confederation College Students: Alyssa Vandraa, Chase Bevan, Dave Egan, Jason Webb, Kirt Pfeifer and Marcia Broughton. Each student is required to complete 288 hours of ride out time with the ambulance service to fulfill their College requirements. During this period they will hone their paramedic skills under the direction of our qualified paramedics. We look forward to assisting them in completing their studies.



Work is progressing on the Rainy River Ambulance Base. Select Construction has just completed the concrete floor for the addition and is expected to start framing the addition early next week. The new addition will house the second ambulance, emergency support trailer and increased storage for the facility.

All paramedics are currently completing their recertification with Thunder Bay Regional Base Hospital. This annual recertification is conducted by Base Hospital to ensure competency in Defibrillation and five Symptom Relief drugs, which include Epinephrine, Glugagon & Glucose paste, Nitroglycerin, Ventolin and ASA. Testing includes both written and practical evaluations.

~Dan McCormick Health Services Manager