



Land Ambulance

1. On January 31, 2007, Dan McCormick, Health Services Manager, and I attended a meeting in Toronto with staff from the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care, Emergency Health Services Branch, to discuss Ministry policy on provision of land ambulance services to First Nations communities.

CAOs and Managers from designated delivery agents providing services to First Nations were given an opportunity to provide input into the funding model. The goal was to come up with a process for an unbiased, province-wide consistent methodology for funding provision of services on First Nations.

There was overall agreement to the per capital funding model which was the model suggested by this DSSAB, however exceptionalities were recognized which may require special funding. One example identified was our DSSAB's need to up-staff a second vehicle when our ambulance is dispatched to Lac La Croix First Nation from Atikokan, increasing our costs. Ministry staff agreed to take this issue forward for funding consideration.

Social Housing

2. We were very pleased to hear that our *Housing Delivery Plan* for the Affordable Housing Program has been approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing. We await the Minister's signature on the *Administration Agreement*.

The Program is geared primarily to seniors, in order to assist them to stay in their homes. Funding will be available for needed renovations; at minimum, we will accommodate 30 units.

It has been a goal of our DSSAB to identify social housing needs unique to our District and attempt to address those needs through partnerships and

collaboration, where possible. Transitional housing from home to long-term care and supportive housing are long-standing needs in our area and we hope that this initiative will bring us closer to serving individuals and families requiring those types of service. We will work closely with Northern Independent Living Services (NILS) and other partners to investigate the possibility of support services for daily living such as meal preparation, medication supervision, personal care, cleaning, etc, as part of our Program.

Child Care Services

3. The Ministry of Children & Youth Services has announced Provincial funding to assist Best Start Networks with the development of Hubs in their respective areas. We anticipate receiving just over \$171,000 in our District. The planning for the Hubs will occur through the Network which is presently chaired by Ann Anderson of the Rainy River District School Board. The Child Development Centre in Kenora will administer the funds.

4. On 01 January, 2007, the RRDSSAB began to implement the new income test for child care. Income Testing is a new method for distributing fee subsidies, based on income rather than the old complex method based on need. At our February Board Meeting, Cheryl Bodnar will be present to provide the Board with an overview of the new testing method.

Respectfully Prepared & Submitted by:
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