



Provincial

1. The Province recently announced a \$4.8 million top-up to the *Provincial Rent Bank Program*. Our DSSAB did not receive additional funding as we still had more than 75% of our original total allocation. We have expanded our eligibility criteria to include recipients of assistance through Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program.
2. In a recent Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA) e-alert, there was an announcement that the Province is releasing \$392 million which was transferred from the Federal government for affordable housing. Off-reserve aboriginal housing was mentioned specifically, therefore Non-Profit Housing Manager, Sandra Weir, will be keeping a close eye on this, given our need in the District. \$80 million has been promised for these particular programs.
3. The Social Housing Services Corporation (SHSC) has released a discussion paper "*Sustaining a New Partnership*" which examines the potential impact of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal & Services Review, announced by the Premier six months ago, on social housing.
4. Social Housing staff have been attending training on the new *Residential Tenancies Act* which replaced the *Tenant Protection Act* and became effective 31 January, 2007.
5. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is presently reviewing the statistical data for on-reserve First Nation populations, in order to create a fair formula to distribute the provincial allocation for services to First Nation communities. As originally proposed by this DSSAB and now endorsed by all Northern Designated Delivery Agents of Land Ambulance, a per capita model is being introduced.
6. The Province, through the Ministry of Community & Social Services, has been distributing health and safety dollars to meet the needs of Child Care Service Providers. We have been approved for \$107,000 to meet needs of most of our Providers in the District.

Local

7. Northern Independent Living Services (NILS) has recently announced that we will receive additional 100% funding for Supportive Services at Lady Frances in Fort Frances. This will allow us to increase support services for tenants at Lady Frances from four to eight hours per day. It is our goal to one day have 24 hour 7 day support services there which will allow individuals to live independently rather than rely on more intrusive alternatives.
8. Program Managers are developing an integrated intake system for consumers of Ontario Works, Social Housing and Child Care Services. Tracy McClain, our Integrated Intake Worker, has been working hard to learn all of the program's processes and identify areas of duplication and opportunities for centralization. Interestingly, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) will be bringing people from across the Province together to explore integration of services. Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager, will attend on our behalf.
9. We have been planning for Leanne Eluik's maternity leave. Mildred Beck will be the Acting Manager during Leanne's leave and Dianne Faragher will act in the capacity of Assistant Manager of Finance. We are currently advertising to replace Dianne's Finance Clerk position during that time.
10. The main RRDSSAB building is progressing well. The drywall and painting is taking place, along with the electrical and mechanical work. We have not had official word on the variance for our lift as yet and still await the arrival of our transformer which is expected in mid-May.
11. We will be meeting with staff from Riverside Health Care Facilities Inc, Community Care Access Centre and District Mental Health Services for Older Adults to explain the Affordable Housing Program Home Repair and to develop strategies for referral and cross-over of services. The goal is to keep seniors in their homes and home communities for as long as possible.

12. OMSSA will be hosting the “Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review Think Tank” on March 28th. The event is intended for CAOs and Commissioners to allow input in the area of human services delivery. As I am unable to attend, Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager, will participate in my place.

Respectfully Prepared & Submitted by:
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