



Land Ambulance

- Letters have been sent to Atikokan General Hospital and Riverside Health Care Facilities Inc regarding the leasing of the current Emo and Atikokan bases, and the purchase of the current Rainy River base. Staff are exploring the purchase of a new facility to house the Fort Frances service.
- Discussions were held with representatives of the CAW and CUPE unions to discuss the transfer of employees to the RRDSSAB. We will continue to ensure that the transfer is as seamless and least disruptive as possible.
- A new ambulance has been purchased and placed in service at Riverside.
- It is anticipated that the 'First Nation Funding Committee' will meet again in May to discuss outstanding funding issues, including off-reserve services, First Nation ambulance services, air-only reserves, and First Nations serviced outside of designated delivery agent boundaries. We are fortunate to have Dan McCormick, Health Services Manager, involved at this level.

Accommodations

- Work proceeds on the planning for renovations/additions at the new RRDSSAB facility. We look forward to meeting with the architect in the near future.
- Thank you to members of the Building Committee and staff who have contributed to the process.

Women's Health Forum

- Joanne Spence and Jeannette Cawston have been assisting me in planning the *Women's Health Forum*, in collaboration with several other local women. The *Forum* is focused on promoting health and wellness in women, and will be held on Saturday, May 13th from 9:00 to 4:00. A great deal of effort has been put into this event and we encourage all women to attend.

Best Start

- The RRDSSAB has been allocated up to \$318,000 for 2006/07 to support the creation of 35 additional child care spaces in the District. The exact amount is to be negotiated with the Province, depending upon the actual number of spaces created by September, 2006 - we are hopeful we can meet our target of 35.

We will continue to work with members of the Best Start Network, children's service organizations and the municipalities to meet the long-standing child care needs of our District. Thanks to Kim Gardiman, Jeannette Cawston and Mildred Beck who have spent countless hours on this project on our behalf.

Social Housing

- We have forwarded letters to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing for Ministerial Consent to sell six vacant lots and three housing units, on behalf of the Atikokan Native Non-Profit Homes Corporation, and a duplex owned and managed by the RRDSSAB.
- Cathe Hoszowski, Social Housing Manager, will attend an information session with the Ministry in Thunder Bay to receive further direction on the Northern Remote component of the Affordable Housing Program. Given our existing vacancy rate and low demand for additional housing stock, we are approaching the initiative cautiously. Once further information is received, a decision will be made as to our commitment.

A big thank you to the staff for their contributions to the 2006 Budget!!

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Dittaro, CAO