

# RRDSSAB NEWS



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## This Issue's Highlights.....

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## Children's Services Update



### 6<sup>th</sup> & Webster Outreach Services Program:

A partnership for Outreach Services at 1018 Webster Avenue has been formed for the purpose of providing child and family service programs for residents of Fort Frances. 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.

Programming and services that are scheduled to be provided at the site include Best Start Hub children's programming for ages 0 to 6, parenting workshops and seminars, storytime and library access information, Healthy Babies/Healthy Children programs, preventive dental services, sexual health, basic homeskills, quick meal ideas, family support, child development, stress management, employment workshops and an Urban Aboriginal Healthy Living Program that is community based and open to all people. As families begin use of the facility, their input and ideas or requests for specific needs or programming will be taken into consideration for future and ongoing programming.

All partners involved have donated program supplies, equipment, furniture and other needs for provision of services, in addition to their staff involvement for programs. Group collaboration and sharing of resources makes this program a true community based effort making the most of existing local services. Additional funding for the project was awarded by the Moffitt Foundation this year and has been earmarked for the set up and maintenance of the site.

### Rainy River Playschool Inc. – Learn, Laugh & Play Children's Centre:

A final site inspection and review of building renovations was completed at 310 Government Road on Friday, June 6/09 with Board Members and the Project Manager for Rainy River Playschool. It is anticipated that the Child Care Centre will be open for business at this new location in August. The Resource Centre has moved into their new space at the site from their former location in June/09. A Grand Opening will be scheduled later on in the year. For information regarding subsidized and non-subsidized spaces available please contact the Learn, Laugh & Play Children's Centre at (807) 852-4204.



Please contact me at the DSSAB office extension 241, should you wish additional information.

~Mildred Beck, Children's Services Manager

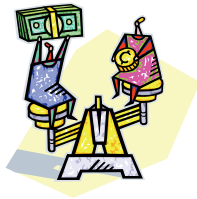
*Farewell to Peter Van Heyst who has served as the representative for Chapple since the Board's inception in 1998. Peter has been a valuable and loyal contributor to the Board and an excellent advocate for his area. Be well and keep in touch Peter!*

### RRDSSAB Board Members

|                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Alberton:            | Barb Cournoyer            |
| 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 Update



OW will be hosting workshops once a month at the Outreach Services location at 6<sup>th</sup> and Webster concentrating on Budgeting, Life Skills and Pre-Employment Programs. Stay tuned for times and dates.

If you have a child under age 18, your Ontario Works payment may change as of August 1, 2009. This is because the monthly Ontario Child Benefit payments will increase to help low-income families provide for their children. If you have a child under age 18 and are on the Ontario Works program, you may see the following changes in your Ontario Works payment if you rent or own your home, or live with your parents: If you are a single parent with a child 18 years of age and under, the amount you receive for your family may be lower; and/or If you have a child 13-17 years of age, you will no longer receive an age-related amount for that child.

These changes mean you will receive less from Ontario Works, however, the increase in your monthly Ontario Child Benefit payment will make up the difference. You will continue to receive other help for your children through social assistance (such as shelter allowance and health benefits). You can also claim some or all of your child care costs if you are working. If you are not receiving the Ontario Child Benefit, or are receiving less than the maximum amount of the Ontario Child Benefit, you may be eligible for a Transition Child Benefit through Ontario Works. Please call if you have any questions.

~ Shelley Shute, Ontario Works

### Annual Staff Meeting

On June 4, 2009, RRDSSAB employees attended their Annual Staff Meeting. Peggy Loyie, Executive Director of the Rainy River District Victim Services Program conducted a presentation on the services they provide. The following long-term service awards were presented:

- |                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>5 year:</b>  | Arthur Collins  | Stacy MacIntyre |
|                 | Kim Cousineau   | Ryan            |
|                 | Mosley          |                 |
|                 | Leanne Eluik    | Sheri           |
| Potter          | <b>20 year:</b> | Sheila Faykes   |
| <b>25 year:</b> | Martin Emond    |                 |

### Message from CAO, Donna

Thank you to the Ontario Works staff for coordinating our annual staff meeting this year. The first RRDSSAB Survivor Challenge was a hit! Congratulations to our "Survivors" Greg, Leanne, Terry, John & Trevis.



*Welcome to Rick Neilson, our new Board member representing the Township of Chapple.*

~Donna Dittaro, Chief Administrative Offi-

### Non-Profit Housing Update-**Profit**

#### Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing



The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced on June 16, 2009 that they were assigning allocations to all Service Managers for planning purposes under the Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit Programs. The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board is pleased to announce that their allocations will be \$585,988 in 2009-10 and \$721,860 in 2010-11. Details on administration agreements and program guidelines will follow in the later part of July.

### RRDSSAB Housing Update

The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) is seeking all low income households in the Rainy River District needing repairs to their principal residence.

Interested homeowners should apply to take advantage of the Northern component of the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program (AHP). Qualifying homeowners will receive funding from RRDSSAB to undertake repairs of modest and affordable ownership housing.

The Northern component of the AHP aims to maintain the affordable housing stock in northern Ontario.

Applications and additional information are available from Metis Nation of Ontario, Housing Branch, 226 South May Street, Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1B4, acting as delivery agent for RRDSSAB. Business hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time).

For more information contact:

Robyynn Maluga  
Metis Nation of Ontario  
Housing Branch  
226 South May Street  
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1B4  
Phone # 1(800)891-5882



~Dianne Lampi, RRDSSAB Housing Manager

### Land Ambulance News

We would like to welcome yet another addition to our paramedic family. Shae Felix, is the mother of a new baby boy, Chase Alexander, born at 13:13 on Monday May 11, 2009. We wish the family the best and hopes for a pleasant summer to enjoy the newest addition.



Also coming back to work for the service is Robert Cooke. Bob previously did a stint here with Riverside Ambulance, than moved to the sunny south to further his career in paramedicine. We welcome him back to the area where he can continue to treat family and friends across the district.



~Dan McCormick, Health Services

*"Don't believe everything you think"*  
Author Unknown