



Rainy River District Social Services Administration
Board

CAO REPORT

September 2004

Social Housing

- Cathe Hoszowski, Social Housing Manager, is pleased to report that most of the matters affecting the Atikokan Native Urban Housing Corporation have been addressed. - Special thanks to Cathe and her staff - Ross, Gary, Dianne, Myrna and Jody - for working with ANUHC to assist them in addressing many outstanding issues.
- Special Thanks to Myrna Jacobs-Beachy and Jody DeGagne for putting together the *Housing Manor Cookbook*. The tenants and DSSAB staff are very proud of their efforts. For \$10.00, you will find many "secret family recipes" !! They are available at the DSSAB Office. (Great gifts.)
- Cathe continues to work on her *Associate Institute of Housing Management Certificate*. So far she has maintained excellent marks!
- If any of you haven't noticed, our Custodians (including summer student Lorne Koski) have done an excellent job maintaining the grounds of our housing projects. The next time you see them out their mowing the lawn, give them a wave and a thumbs up.

Ontario Works

- OW Programs across Ontario are concerned that the Ministry of Community & Social Services has frozen employment/community placement funding at 2003 levels which is a reduction of approximately \$23,000 for our DSSAB. Shelley informs me that we will be able to cover the difference, if necessary, through our CP Bonus Dollars. Unfortunately, this will not be the case for 2005.
- The Ministry continues to threaten the introduction of funding based upon

cost per case which could deal a threatening blow to our DSSAB. Our OW Program contributes significantly to the costs of DSSAB administration (which is common across the North). A reduction in cost for administration will threaten the viability of many DSSAB offices.

- Thanks to Shelley and her staff for developing an excellent *Service Plan for Ontario Works!!*

Child Care

- Special Thanks to Kim Gardiman who has developed a *three year Service Plan for Child Care*, after consulting across the District. Kim is a very strong advocate for children's services and is to be commended for ensuring that all stakeholders were able to provide input into the process and set the direction for future child care services.

Land Ambulance

- Dan continues to lead the charge for the *NOSDA Land Ambulance Committee*. His group continues their lobbying efforts with the Province over many outstanding issues. It is an exhausting and often frustrating experience but Dan continues to look after the best interests of our District.

Finance

- Leanne has just successfully completed two of her required courses toward her *CGA distinction!!* Way to go, Leanne. I believe she only has two left and once she's done, we're already planning the celebration, as this has been a long haul for Leanne.
- Thanks to Dianne for assisting over and above in the housing department as late. Thanks to Millie for all of her work with the tendering and procurement process, and to Ron for just being Ron and doing an excellent job with the Ministerial consent for housing.
- *p.s. Ron and his wife just welcomed a new son to their family - Jake - a little brother for Lily!*

Human Resources

- Jo has been busy revising HR Policies with the input of staff, now that she has completed the Building Condition Audit documents. Thanks, Jo.

Administrative Support

- Judy snuck into my office while I was on holidays and “cleaned up”. Thank you, Judy. She manages to keep the office running smoothly and efficiently.

Technical Support

- We have been experiencing an extraordinary amount of difficulty with our computers lately which has kept Cheryl hopping. She continues to refine our Web Site which, if you haven't visited it yet, is excellent. Cheryl did a great job! I am very proud of the site she has created.

Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) Annual Meeting

- John Callan, Glenn Armstrong and I will be on the Manitoulin Island in September to attend the 2004 annual meeting of NOSDA. Ministerial representation is expected and welcomed. We will have an opportunity to express our unique views from the Rainy River District. We will provide a report at the October Board meeting.

Here's to a beautiful autumn.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Dittaro, CAO

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