

# RRDSSAB NEWS



Main Office: 206 Scott Street ~ Fort Frances ~ On ~ P9A 1G7 ~ Phone (807) 274-5349 ~ Toll free 1-800-265-5349 ~ Fax (807) 274-0678

Satellite Office: Rawn Road Centre ~ Atikokan ~ On ~ POW 1CO ~ Phone (807) 597-1431 ~ Toll free 1-800-265-5349 ~ Fax (807) 597-1493

### This Issues Highlights...

- RRDSSAB Submits Proposal
- Child Care News
- New Location
- RRDSSAB Board Members
- Land Ambulance News
- **NEW** RRDSSAB Web-site
- Emergency Rent Bank Fund
- Ontario Works Update
- Thought for the Day
- Financial Assistance Info

## RRDSSAB Submits Proposal

The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board submitted a *Proposal* to the Rainycrest Board of Management for a Management Agreement between RRDSSAB and Rainycrest Home for the Aged. Although the *Proposal* did receive unanimous support of the Rainycrest Board and the recommendation of authorized Ministry staff, the Minister of Health has appointed Riverside Health Care Facilities Inc. as Interim Manager and contracted with Extendicare, a private corporation, for a one-year period.

~Donna Dittaro, Chief Administrative Officer

## Child Care News

Due to the recent policy statement issued by the Ministry of Child & Youth Services (MCYS): *Improving Access to Subsidized Child Care*, low income families with children whom would benefit from participation in a Licensed Child Care Centre or Nursery School Program for developmental, socialization and/or school readiness, **may qualify for financial assistance!**



Child Care programs offer an excellent learning environment which help prepare children for success in school. Programs include a variety of indoor/outdoor activities, including creative arts, science, music, language/literacy, dramatic play etc., all geared to support the development of your child. Children are provided with nutritious meals and snacks in a nurturing, learning environment which promotes self esteem. The following quality programs are available in a community near you!

- Atikokan:** Atikokan 2-3-4 Playgroup Inc. (*Nursery School Program*)  
Atikokan Rainbow Centre (Atikokan Non-Profit Day Care Corp.)

- Devlin:** Country View Child Care Centre
- Fort Frances:** Fort Frances Nursery School Inc. (*Nursery School Program*)  
Fort Frances Children Complex  
-Fort Frances Day Care  
-Fort Frances Private Home Day Care
- Rainy River:** Rainy River Playschool Inc. (*Nursery School Program*)

If you would like your child to attend a Licensed Child Care Program or Nursery School, or if you would like more information, please contact Kim Gardiman, Children's Services Manager, at (807) 274-5349 ext. 20.



~Kim Gardiman, Children's Services Manager

## New Location

The Land Ambulance Office has moved to 206 Scott Street (main RRDSSAB office), effective March 31, 2005. The phone number to reach Dan McCormick, Health Services Manager, will now be (807) 274-5349, ext. 33 and the fax is (807) 274-0678.



### RRDSSAB Board Members

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Alberton:            | Barb Cournoyer           |
| Atikokan:            | Dennis Brown             |
| Chapple:             | Peter Van Heyst          |
| Dawson:              | Linda Armstrong          |
| Emo:                 | Russ Fortier (Chair)     |
| Fort Frances:        | Tannis Drysdale          |
| Lake of the Woods:   | Valarie Pizey            |
| LaVallee:            | Emily Watson             |
| Morley:              | Gary Gamsby              |
| Rainy River:         | Glen Armstrong           |
| Rainy River East:    | Michael Lewis            |
| Rainy River Central: | John Callan (Vice-Chair) |
| Rainy River West:    | Wade Desserre            |

excellence in Governance

**Land Ambulance News**

The Ambulance Service is constantly changing. In 2000, many Land Ambulance Bases were staffed during afternoons and evenings with volunteers on call.



These volunteers were highly dedicated individuals who provided emergency medical care to their family, friends and neighbours. On January 1, 2001 Land Ambulance was downloaded to the Municipalities with significant changes to the Ambulance Regulations regarding staff qualifications. All employees required certification in Defibrillation and Symptom Relief (administration of 5 drugs). On January 1, 2006 all Paramedics working Full-time or Part-time must also have graduated from a College Paramedic Program and successfully passed the Provincial Advanced Emergency Medical Care Assistant Examination (AEMCA). An extension to this date is currently being considered by the Province.

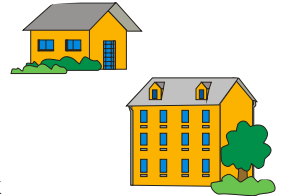
Our Land Ambulance Operators, Riverside Health Care Facilities and Atikokan General Hospital, have been working diligently to meet these requirements as the legislative changes brought about a sudden end to the volunteers. Due to the increased time commitment required to meet standards for qualifications, volunteers have been replaced with dedicated Full-time and Part-time Paramedics who are highly qualified.

In order to maintain the legislated response times, despite increased call volumes, all four ambulance bases in the District were moved to 24/7 staffing midway through 2002. Funding for these changes was provided equally by the Province and the Municipal members. The rapid increases in qualifications also led to large retroactive wage increases across the Province. These retroactive wage settlements continue to be unfunded by the Province. Currently the Land Ambulance program is facing a funding shortfall of approximately ~\$650,000 annually. As Paramedic wages increase, the shortfall will continue to grow.

In 2000, the Province committed to fund 50% of the Approved Costs. Currently, the Province only recognizes 2% of the wage increases and funds 1%. Paramedic wages continue to rise approximately 8% annually. The RRDSSAB is committed to correcting this funding shortfall and is continuing to lobby the Province for the appropriate funding. We strive to bring this issue to the forefront of the Ministry of Health and the Province of Ontario. Working with the Land Ambulance Operators, Paramedics, Unions, and Municipal partners, we will strive to resolve this issue, while ensuring that the delivery of the Land Ambulance Service continues to meet the needs of the Rainy River District at an affordable cost.

**Emergency Rent Bank Fund**

The RRDSSAB, together with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, is providing funding for short-term rent arrears to residents in the Rainy River District. Rent bank funding can help tenants avoid eviction and is available for residents with low incomes who, due to an unforeseen crisis, miss rent payments. The fund was established by the Ontario Government in 2004 and funds were allocated to municipal service managers province-wide.



If you are experiencing financial difficulties, and unable to pay your rent and are in the process of being evicted, you may qualify for emergency rent bank funding. For more information contact Michelle Korpi, Tenant Placement Coordinator, at (807) 274-5349 ext 31, or drop in to pick up an *Application* at 206 Scott Street in Fort Frances or the Rawn Road Centre in Atikokan.

***You may qualify for Emergency Rent Bank Funding.***

~Cathe Hoszowski, Social Housing Manager

**Ontario Works Update**

The Northern Intake Screening Unit will be closing April 30, 2005. Effective May 1, 2005, anyone who needs to apply for Ontario Works Social Assistance will contact the local office directly. In Fort Frances (807) 274-5349 or in Atikokan (807) 597-1431.

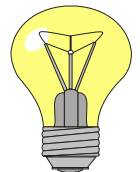


If your non-profit organization has positions you need filled, and you are willing to host a volunteer to learn new skills and gain work experience, contact Krista Ballard, Employment Support Worker at (807) 274-4641 to see if you qualify.

~ Shelley Shute, Ontario Works Manager

**Thought for the Day...**

*The past gives us experience and memories, the present gives us challenges and opportunities; the future gives us vision and hope...*



~ William Arthur Ward



**Visit our New Web-site...  
www.rrdssab.ca**



**Are you in need of financial assistance?  
Atikokan Call 597-1431  
All Other Areas Call 274-5349**