



Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2021

Community Safety and Well-Being Plan in Development for the Rainy River District

The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) is partnering with eighteen regional services to develop a Community Safety and Well-Being plan that will target all municipalities within the Rainy River District. The plan will involve identifying key local priority risk areas to focus on with the goal of safer communities with less crime and social disorder.

The plan is being led by the RRDSSAB, who formed an advisory committee with regional services spanning justice, health, housing, youth and social services, as well as municipal government.

The advisory committee will be able to determine priority risks to target by conducting consultations with people living in the ten municipalities that make up the Rainy River district, which include Rainy River, Morley, Lake of the Woods, Dawson, Chapple, Emo, LaVallee, Alberton, Fort Frances and Atikokan. In addition to public consultations, the advisory committee will collect a broad data set focusing on emergency response, crime and victimization patterns.

Community Safety and Well-Being Plans are required under Police Service Act legislation to be completed by each municipality within Ontario by July 1, 2021. Rather than the ten municipalities in the district completing their own plans, they opted to adopt a global plan that will look at the concerns and issues of the region as a whole. The RRDSSAB was delegated to complete this regional plan on behalf of these municipalities. Other legislative requirements of the plan include completing public consultations and adopting plans to address priority risks.

"Originally, we had hoped to see public consultations take place in-person through focus groups to get feedback on perceptions of safety and overall well-being in each community, but with the realities of COVID-19, we decided to move to strictly virtual and paper survey," said Sandra Weir, one of the plan's coordinators and Housing Manager at the RRDSSAB.

Public consultations will take place between February 16th and March 16th and can be completed by visiting the link on the RRDSSAB's website at www.rrdssab.ca. Paper copies will also be available for drop off and pickup at each municipal office across the district.

"A concerted effort will also be made to target certain populations who might not use the internet or travel to their local municipal office. For example, we will be bringing paper

surveys to each of the seniors manors in the district with a drop-box in their own building," added Jamie Petrin, co-coordinator for the regional plan. Service providers from around the district will be encouraging their clients to complete these surveys as well.

As a 'thank-you' to individuals who participate in the survey, the RRDSSAB will be giving away three-\$100 gift certificates for local grocery stores within the region. "While the survey is built to be anonymous, to be counted in for the gift card draw, you will be required to provide your name and a way to contact you, so that we can ensure it is a local response and so that we don't have duplication of surveys." The RRDSSAB is encouraging individuals within the Rainy River District to only complete one survey as completing more will not improve your chances at obtaining a gift card. Postal codes will be used to ensure feedback is only being received from residents local to the district.

The Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is expected to be completed and made available to the public in the summer months. For more information, residents are encouraged to visit the RRDSSAB website at www.rrdssab.ca or call at 807-274-5349.

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Thank you for providing the opportunity to address the development of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for the Rainy River District.

For information, please contact Sandra Weir at sandraw@rrdssab.on.ca or 807-274-5349 x 230.