



## **2013 Fourth Quarter Activity Report Feb. 27, 2014**

The following is the most recent consolidated Quarterly Report that the DSB will be sending to member municipalities and posting on our public website. Expect Quarterly Reports in February, May, September, and November of each year.

The program statistics are provided separately and updated monthly. They are available on the website by clicking the following link: [Monthly Program Statistics](#)

### **CAO Overview**

The DSB 2013 Fourth Quarter (Unaudited) Financial Report was presented to the Board and projects a year-end municipal share surplus of \$525,736. This surplus includes an Ontario Works deficit of \$4,918. Social Housing is forecasted to be under budget by \$128,157. Emergency Medical Services is under budget by \$417,524. In addition non-reserve interest revenue is forecasted to be \$15,027 (deficit) under budget.

The DSB quarterly financial reports are available on the DSB website by clicking the following link: [Quarterly Financial Reports](#)

### **Emergency Medical Services**

#### **Non-Urgent Transfers**

The DSB continues to operate an alternative non-urgent patient transportation system. While the official Pilot Project was complete on September 6, 2013 we were able to utilize surplus program funding with 2 months of LHIN sponsored funding bringing us to the end of November. In mid-October, we submitted a proposal to the LHIN again with our hospital partners, to extend the project to the end of March 2014. In mid-December, we received notice that we were successful in achieving some funding. The requested budget was reduced in excess of 10% however, we believe with internally managed efficiencies and some assistance from our hospital partners we will be able to make this project last until March 31, 2014.

The DSB continues to await a decision by the LHIN on the upcoming consultant's report on this issue. The steering committee has been meeting and so far statistics are suggesting that an alternative mode of transport for non-urgent patients is in order.

## **EMS Budget Highlights**

At the October Board meeting the 2014 budget was approved. Within the EMS portion of the budget is funding to enhance hours of operation in the Massey and Noëlville EMS Stations. Starting March 2, 2014 the staffing in both stations will consist of two 10 hour on-site shifts with a period of 4 hours of on-call, 7 days a week. This enhancement will provide more hours of on-site coverage whereby an ambulance is to be mobile to an emergency call within 2 minutes of receipt of the call. Statistics reviewing the impact of this change suggest that more patient will be responded to during the on-site portion of a shift thus improving response times. The end result of this enhancement should be the provision of timelier patient care with the aim of more positive patient outcomes. It is another step forward by this Board to provide more complete care to the citizens of our communities.

## **Ambulance Service Review (ASR)**

On October 30, 2013, the DSB had the final visit from the MOHLTC regarding our 2013 ASR. DSB Staff were happy to welcome Michael Bay, the Manager of Inspection, Certification, and Regulatory Compliance with the MOHLTC Emergency Health Services Branch. Having the leader of the department responsible for overall compliance meet to discuss our ASR was an opportunity to discuss not only how DSB performed but also to discuss the goals of the MOHLTC themselves. Through discussions, a greater understanding of both organizations was accomplished, with the result being that the MOHLTC appears comfortable with DSB operations.

On November 14, 2013, the DSB received the final report on this matter. The review found that overall, Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB, meets the certification criteria and the legislated requirements. Accordingly, Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB will be issued a renewed Certificate to operate an ambulance service. Each certificate to run an ambulance service is issued for a 3-year period so the DSB can expect to see the next full ASR occur in 2016.

## **Children's Services**

### **Ministry of Education Updates:**

The Ministry of Education (MEDU) introduced a new child care licensing system on October 11, 2013. The new system is an online system, which will allow child care operators to apply for new licenses, renew existing licenses, report serious occurrences, and request Director's approval for staff that are not Registered Early Childhood Educator's.

For DSSAB/CMSM's, the new site will provide the ability to look up licenses and serious occurrences for their operator sites. In addition, DSSAB/CMSM's will receive email

notifications from MEDU when serious occurrences are reported and when licenses are issued/renewed.

In the summer of 2013, MEDU launched a review of the Early Childhood Educators (ECE) Act. In December 2013 CMSM/DSSAB's received a [letter](#) from the Honourable Liz Sandals, Minister of Education, announcing the introduction of the proposed Child Care Modernization Act, 2013. If the proposed legislation is approved, it will repeal and replace the Day Nurseries Act with the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2013. Additionally, it will include amendments to the Early Childhood Educator's Act, 2007. Further information can be found in the [Minister's Report on the Review of the ECEA](#). The new legislation will aim to:

- Strengthen the oversight of child care with new enforcement tools for non-compliance;
- Reflect the leadership role of local service system managers;
- Improve access to licensed child care options by removing disincentives for home-based providers to become licensed;
- Provide greater flexibility to allow child care centres to use additional models of age groupings and staff to child ratios;
- Enhance program quality in licensed settings;
- Improve critical health and safety standards related to criminal reference checks, first aid training, and nutrition

In November 2013, MEDU [announced](#) the transfer of family support resources programs from MCYS to MEDU. As suggested in the summer release of the Early Years Policy Framework, one goal was to create an effective approach to implementing Best Start Child and Family Centres. While no decisions have been made on the approach, the Ministry has indicated that funds will flow from MEDU effective January 1, 2014. For the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB, this means that allocation amounts will remain the same for funding currently designated to Best Start Planning and Best Start Hubs. Since this was the last of the funding allocations with MCYS, the DSB will deal solely with MEDU concerning contract management, funding allocations, and reporting requirements as of January 1, 2014. The other program allocations that will be transferred, which are not managed by this DSB, include, Ontario Early Years Centres, Better Beginnings Better Futures, and Data Analysis Coordinators.

### **Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Network / CIL Project:**

The previous quarterly report identified that the Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Network, along with Sudbury Best Start Network, were successful in obtaining the one-time, non-operational, MCYS funding through the Community Integration Leadership (CIL) Project. Since the September [announcement](#), a work plan and contract have been developed in partnership with the Social planning Council.

## **Ontario Works**

### **Ontario Works Caseload**

In the fourth final quarter of 2013, the Ontario Works Caseload average is 464. Compared to last year at this time, the caseload has increased by 1.0%. The minimal increase is mostly due to short-term or temporary lay-offs in the construction, forestry, hospitality and tourism industry as well as people waiting for employment insurance or employment insurance claims ending and family hardships.

The 2013 budget was based on an estimated monthly maximum caseload of 509. As a result, the Ontario Works Allowance gross budget surplus is 298,830 and the municipal share is \$50,005 in the fourth quarter of 2013.

### **Social Services Solution Modernization Project (SSSMP)**

The End User Training is scheduled to begin January 20, 2014. The DSB has a total of 30 staff participating. This intensive training is being delivered by the NOSDA Northern Training Strategy as staff prepare to go-live with a new provincial database system for the Ontario Works Program. Over 400 northern staff will be going through this training over a 12-week period. Go live for the new system is set for mid-May 2014. The DSB is also involved in application testing exercises.

On December 27, 2013, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB received a [letter from the Director of Ontario Works Branch](#), advising that the Ministry of Community Social Services will be providing administrative relief for Ontario Works to support the implementation of the new database called Social Assistance Management System (SAMS). This relief is in recognition of the impacts that the DSB will experience in order to plan for and implement SAMS. The intent of the funding is to assist with additional costs delivery agents incur related to SAMS implementation such as re-tooling peripherals, meeting technical specifications, organizational and business process changes, delivery of training, and other allowable Ontario Works administration costs. The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB will receive \$28,000 in 100% provincial one-time funding under this initiative.

### **Employment Ontario**

The DSB has surpassed all the targets set by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) with the exception of one target where the DSB is at 91%. The DSB's Employment Ontario staff continue to expand their suite of services and market the program as effectively as possible. The DSB is committed to ensure that all targets are met.

On October 1st and 2nd, 2013, we had our annual site visit from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU). We received a few recommendations but overall the report was positive.

## **Youth Employment Fund**

Within the same suite of Employment Ontario Services for the Sudbury North area, the DSB now delivers the Youth Employment Fund (YEF).

While YEF is accessible to all eligible youth, a key focus of the fund is to create more employment opportunities for at-risk youth, including:

- Youth on social assistance.
- Aboriginal youth.
- Youth with a disability.
- Youth with a poor history of educational attainment or employability.
- Youth in communities with high youth unemployment.

Employers are required to meet the job placements eligibility criteria as per the MTCU's existing Employment Services Guidelines. The YEF program will be incorporated within the same suite of Employment Ontario services already funded by MTCU in the Sudbury North region. Employers must also commit to placements of 4 to 6 months in duration.

As of December 31st, 2013, 4 youth have been placed through the Youth Employment Fund (YEF) initiative. Three of those youth were on the Ontario Works Caseload. The DSB has a target of 5 youth for this fiscal year. Marketing and Promotion of this new initiative continues.

Residents in the Sudbury East region can apply to the Youth Employment Fund program through Collège Boréal, which is located at 8 David Street in Noëlville.

Residents in the Espanola region can apply to this program through Cambrian College which is located at 101-91 Tudhope in Espanola.

Residents in the Manitoulin Island region can apply to this program through Cambrian College as well which is located at 7 Water Street in Little Current.

## **Jobs For Youth**

Once again this year, the DSB received 100% provincial funding to place students with employers on Manitoulin Island through the Youth Opportunities Strategy.

The YMCA Sudbury received the same 100% provincial funding to place students with employers in Sudbury East, Sudbury North and LaCloche Area through the same Strategy.

Placement Results			
Delivered by Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB		Delivered by YMCA	
Manitoulin Island		Sudbury East, Sudbury North and LaCloche Areas	
Funded Youth Placements	40	Cutler	6
Youth who Applied to Program	82	Espanola	6
Employers Applying for Placements	85	Nairn & Hyman	1
Youth Actually Placed	44	Sables/Spanish Rivers	7
F/T Placements (July – Aug)	44	St. Charles	5
P/T Placements (Sept – March)	7	Noëlville	7
Youth Completing Placements	44	French River	2
		Chapleau	21
		Markstay/Warren	1
		Gogama	2
		Alban	1
<b>Total Placed</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>Total Placed</b>	<b>59</b>

Just like previous three years, the program allowed students to continue working part-time while attending school subject to available funding. We have 7 part-time placements on Manitoulin Island that will continue to work until December 2013 or until the employer closes for the season.

**Community Involvement**

The DSB continues to be involved with local service providers. As previously reported, the Good Food Box program extended to Sudbury East and Manitoulin Island. It’s been reported that those communities are embracing this worthwhile venture. For November 2013, of 287 orders received a total of 122 came from our catchment areas. As food security is very important for the health and welfare of our citizen, the DSB is committed to continuing its involvement in this program.

**Wellness Program**

Two Laurentian University Students from the Social Work program completed their fourth year placement with the DSB. A total of 35 clients participated in a 2 day workshop. The feedback received from the participants and staff have been very positive. The purpose of this workshop was to help social assistance recipients in becoming more employment ready. Through this program each participant received a better understanding on the importance of a well-balanced life. This program was delivered in all 4 DSB catchment areas.

## **Social Housing**

### **Updates**

The NOSDA Service Managers Housing Group met in Sudbury at the end of November. Topics of discussion included Housing and Homelessness Plan updates, CHPI Program updates and presentations from MAH, HSC and OMSSA.

Unit Inspections also took place in the Chapleau area for family and single units. Some of the units will require follow up at the end of January.

As support for the DSB's 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan the conversion of 2 buildings to Senior only designation were approved. As a result Channelview Apartments in Little Current and Milltown Apartments in Espanola have been converted to Senior-only buildings.

In addition, Seniors age 65 and older will receive priority status on all waiting lists in the DSB portfolio as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Also, approval of the Board to convert the Woods Lane apartments at 66 Meredith from rent-geared-to-income to an affordable rental was also achieved and the first 2 units have been rented.

### **Applicants & Tenants**

During the last quarter of 2013 our waiting list remained steady. During the quarter there were a total of 17 new move-ins, 3 transfers, and 9 move outs.

### **Revenues**

Revenues for the year appear to be within \$1,349 of budgeted amounts for the year.

### **Arrears**

Tenant arrears for the quarter averaged 4% overall as compared to revenues. There is a fulsome and integrated process for timely collection of arrears that has been successful in arrears collection.

## **Infrastructure & Asset Management**

### **Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH)**

The October 1st – December 31st activity for Year 3 of the IAH program included 7 approved Ontario Renovates applications which total \$85,505. The year to date total is \$181,410 for 13 applications. The budgeted amount for this initiative is \$376,231. As of the end of December, the remaining budget is \$165,821. The entire budget has been allocated and expended.

## **Supervisor Infrastructure & Asset Management**

The sewage management system at 66 Robinson in Little Current was assessed and efforts have been made to develop a business case for a significant upgrade. A new gravity fed main sewage pipeline is being considered to replace the pumps and sump currently operating in the basement of the building. This would require a significant capital expenditure but would remove the risk of sump failure and potential sewage overflow (occurred in 2012). The new system would also improve safety, reduce energy costs, maintenance costs, and replacement pump costs.

## **Infrastructure Upgrading and Repairs**

The 210 Mead generator upgrade was completed and commissioned using a portable load-bank. Subsequent power failures tested the system and it worked well. Lever action handle replacements have begun; improving accessibility for the tenants. The DSB apartment buildings on Manitoulin Island, in Massey and in Webbwood have been completed.

The asphalt roof at 66 Meredith needed to be replace and the work was completed just before the early winter.

Unit turnovers in the housing units continued to keep our custodians busy along with their regular duties. Custodians worked hard as it has been an 'old fashioned' winter with significant and frequent snow falls throughout out the region.

## **Summary**

The DSB had a very busy fourth quarter. If municipal Councils have any questions or would like DSB staff to attend a municipal Council meeting please feel free to contact me at the address below.

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