



2015 Fourth Quarter Activity Report February 25, 2016

The following is the most recent consolidated Quarterly Report that the DSB will be sending to member municipalities and posting on the 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 2015 Fourth Quarter (Unaudited) Financial Report was presented to the Board and projects a year-end municipal share surplus of \$453,190. Ontario Works is under budget by \$12,854; Social Housing is under budget by \$50,577; Emergency Medical Services is under budget by \$404,317. Interest revenue on non-reserve accounts is \$14,558 under budget.

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

Emergency Medical Services

2016 Budget

At the October Board meeting the 2016 budget was approved. Within the EMS portion of the budget is funding to introduce a new program aimed at addressing the most pressing response needs as determined with the EMS 5 Year Staffing Plan. This year's review focused on the concept of stacked calls, where calls happen within a community where the ambulance is already busy performing another call. Through statistical analysis it was found that there was an abundance of stacked calls in the eastern area of Manitoulin Island and LaCloche.

The 2016 EMS budget contained funding for a new Paramedic Response Unit program. A PRU is a single paramedic equipped vehicle which is capable of responding to the medical needs of the communities without the ability to transport. You can think of it as a rapid response unit that is unencumbered by patient transportation. Being not able to transport means this unit will always be available for the next call once the full ambulance gets to the patient. This allows for a level of response readiness not witnessed in our area previously.

The EMS portion of the budget planned for a 12 hour PRU in Wikwemikong 7 days a week funded 100% by the Province and additional 12 hour PRU in the LaCloche area staffed half the time. Work on operationalizing this program began in earnest post the November Board meeting. Staff have been consulted, schedules have been set, training is under development and vehicles have been procured to support this program. The start of this program is anticipated to be within the first quarter of 2016.

This new initiative is another step forward by this Board to provide more complete care to the citizens of our communities.

OAPC Board

At the annual Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs Annual General Meeting, Chief of EMS Michael MacIsaac was elected to a 2-year term on the Board as a representative of Northern Ontario. Being a member on this Board allows for a greater role in formulating the future for EMS/Paramedic Services throughout the province by means of greater committee work involving different regulatory and legislative bodies. Currently under review is an improved OAPC website aimed at providing not only better communications across the province amongst association members but also greater information for the general public. Additionally, more direct work includes involvement with the Ministry of Labour Section 21 EMS committee aimed at improving and promoting safety for paramedics across the province and a Performance Metrics group working alongside the MOHLTC whose goal is to assess and implement additional performance measurements in relation to patient care. These are important portfolios that not only have local significance but also span in prominence provincially.

Patient Transportation Service (PTS) Bargaining

Early in 2015 the PTS pilot program employees served notice to unionize. The chosen bargaining agent was OPSEU and a first collective agreement was secured. Built upon similar agreements this one will allow for better detailed guidelines for the employees for a period of 4 years as long as the program continues. Monetary principles of this agreement fall in line with the rest of the organization and allow for an upward path for these employees. The hard work and respectful bargaining of both sides really allowed for an agreement that is fair for both parties.

Tele-homecare Remote Monitoring

Our Community Paramedicine lead met with the local Community Care Access Centers (CCACs) to evaluate potential benefits through the established Tele-homecare remote monitoring program. Tele-homecare is a provincial program that provides people with conditions such as chronic heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, with weekly health coaching and daily monitoring of vital signs in their own homes.

Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB, through the EMS Department is completing a Memorandum of Understanding to partner with CCAC for 2-way patient referrals in Gore Bay and Gogama to allow remote CCAC monitoring, and for additional Community Paramedic assessments and interventions as a direct result of alerts/trends found by CCAC. Additionally, the EMS Department has partnered with the CCAC to implement monitoring systems in other geographic areas with our Commander of Training being taught in installation of these units. Two units have so far been installed under this arrangement. It is believed that this initiative will better position CCAC to make patient care recommendations, and will assist as an ED/Admission avoidance strategy.

Children's Services

Ministry of Education Update

The timelines outlined in the Ministry of Education (MEDU) memo [2016 Wage Enhancement Implementation Process and Timelines](#) have been postponed, applications will not be posted on January 4, 2016. Child Care operators have been provided with a template, created by MEDU, to reconcile the 2015 wage enhancement payments, templates are to be completed and returned to the DSB by January 15, 2016.

The [2016 Child Care Allocations](#) were released, the 2016 Ontario Child Care Service Management and Funding Guidelines and the Child Care Funding Formula: Technical Paper 2016 are expected to be released in January.

Syrian Refugee Settlement

MEDU has shared information regarding [Syrian Refugee Settlement in Ontario](#). School boards have been encouraged to connect with community supports, including family support programs to support the transition for families.

Family Support Programs

Updates will be made to the [MEDU website](#) that will provide families with a single online resource to find information regarding MEDU funded family support programs. In the past a number of websites provided information regarding family support programs in Ontario, resulting in challenges for families navigating the system.

Ontario Building 30 New Schools, Over 2,000 Licensed Child Care Spaces

The MEDU news release [Ontario Building 30 New Schools, Over 2000 Licensed Child Care Spaces](#) highlights investments in Ontario schools and child care programs. Ontario is investing \$498 million in new and renovated schools as well as new child care spaces to provide students with better places to learn while also giving families more options for quality licensed child care.

Although there were no schools chosen for retrofits or new builds in the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB jurisdiction, there were some successful applications in the NOSDA area. There will be one retrofit in the Alexander Henry High School in Sault Ste Marie within the Algoma District School Board. Three new child care rooms will be added creating 49 new child care spaces at St. Basil's School in Sault Ste Marie through the Huron Superior Catholic District School Board. In North Bay, 4 new child care rooms are being created resulting in 49 new child care spaces in the Former site of Pinewood Public School through the Near North District School Board.

Offering more licensed child care spaces in schools aligns with the government's commitment to support community hubs. At a local level DSB staff and the Best Start Network will continue to work with partners to explore opportunities for the use of schools as community hubs to best meet the needs of students and communities.

Child Care

A community survey has been drafted to help better understand the child care needs of families in the district. The survey was reviewed by child care operators and will be released in February 2016 rather than November 2015. A number of modifications to the survey itself and implementation plan were recommended by child care operators.

The child care operators on Manitoulin Island (Gore Bay Child Care Centre and Manitoulin Family Resources) have partnered with the United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising (UCCMM) to host a conference in the spring of 2016. Further information will be shared when available regarding confirmed speakers and venue. The target audience will be child care providers during the day and families and caregivers in the evening.

The Manitoulin Sudbury DSB continues to work with Our Children Our Future (OCOF) to conduct a quality assurance review of all licensed programs in the district. Site visits have been completed, a summary report is being prepared and professional learning conversations scheduled to support the recommendations made during the visits.

Best Start Network

The Best Start Network (BSN) sent a [letter](#) to the Ministry of Education expressing concern regarding the release of 2015 Early Development Instrument (EDI) suppressed data to Ontario school boards and to the Data Analysis Coordinators. The BSN received the following [response](#) indicating that MEDU is working closely with the Offord Centre for Child Studies and other ministry partners to identify options for providing useful data while ensuring a high level of security is applied to all student information in Ontario.

Ontario Works

Ontario Works Caseload

In the fourth quarter of 2015, the Ontario Works Caseload average is 531. Compared to last year at this time, the caseload has increased by 9%. The increase is mostly due to family hardships, inability to find employment, people waiting for employment insurance or employment insurance claims ending.

Based on the fourth quarter financial report, there will be a \$37,902 municipal surplus in allowances for the year.

Employment Ontario (EO)

The DSB Employment Ontario program has completed the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) third quarter (October to December). With the exception of one, the DSB has surpassed all the targets set by the MTCU. The DSB's Chapleau Employment Resource Centre continues to expand its suite of services and market the program as effectively as possible.

On October 28, 2015 the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB, in partnership with École Secondaire Catholique Trillium and Chapleau Elementary and Secondary Schools, hosted its third Career Fair from 11am to 3pm. The event was marketed through the local paper, social media and via the township's website. Mail-outs were also sent out to Ontario Works and Employment Ontario clients. The Career Fair had a total of 19 Employer booths. Students from grade 3 to grade 12 attended as well as local residents. Over 175 individuals visited the fair.

Canada-Ontario Job Grant (COJG)

As of December 31, 2015, seventeen (17) training agreements were approved. A total of 273 employees received training through the COJG. On-going marketing and advertising is happening.

Youth Job Connection (YJC)

The Youth Job Connection is intended to service youth who experience multiple, complex barriers to employment by providing intensive supports beyond traditional job search and placement opportunities, including pre-employment training, mentorship and work opportunities.

The program entails two streams. A year-round stream aimed at young people who are neither in education, employment or training. This stream started October 1, 2015. The summer program stream for high school students facing challenging life circumstances will be implemented for summer 2016.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB partnered with the Chapleau Learning Centre to develop the 60 hours pre-employment training module during this quarter as the program will start to be offered to youth between the ages of 15-29 in the first quarter of 2016.

Social Assistance Management System (SAMS)

November 12, 2015 marked the one year anniversary of our go-live with the new provincial database, SAMS. Staff continue to experience challenges with the database however are managing their now 'business as usual' day to day work. Quarterly fixes continue to occur from the province as we continue to work with MCSS to address any issues that staff are presented with.

Social Housing

Program Update

During this quarter, the DSB as a Lead Agency kicked off the Ontario Energy Support Program. This program provides eligible individuals and families a monthly credit on their hydro bill. The program was created to offset the elimination of the 10% Clean Energy Benefit. Staff have been trained to assist with completion of applications. As well as various program advertising, our Staff hosted OESP information sessions in November geared to assist in each community with the application process. Sessions were held in Espanola, St. Charles, Little Current, Gore Bay and Chapleau. Our staff saw approximately 65 applicants for the program.

The program benefits are set to begin January 1, 2016.

Market Rents

Housing Tenants affected by changes to their rent (increase or decrease) as a result of changes to DSB Market Rents have now all received rental adjustments (decrease), or have received notice of rent increase for July 1, 2016 for the first year installment. Rent decreases were retro-active to October 1, 2015 and tenants were credited accordingly.

Applicants

It should be noted that 2015 is a bi-annual applicant update year which normally results in application cancellation. The applicants were given ample time to contact us before cancellation was completed in full to allow persons to reinstate. Applications are cancelled if they choose, if mail is returned, if the applicant passes away, or if they do not respond.

Total active applications at year-end were 393. The breakdown of applicant information as of December 31, 2015

- 1 Bedroom - 313 - (+ 15)
- 2 Bedroom - 48 - (+ 7)
- 3 Bedroom - 21 - (- 1)
- 4 Bedroom - 11 - (+ 3)

Tenants

Our trend continues, showing considerable movement within the portfolio. During this quarter there were 8 new move-ins and 14 move-outs. This includes a tenant transfer for accommodation purposes.

Revenues

Revenues for the quarter are on par with budgeted amounts. Based on the fourth quarter financial report, the annual tenant revenues exceeded the budget of \$1,055,908 by \$23,766 or 2.3%.

Smoke Free Housing – Unit Count-down

As of the end of the quarter, 62 units of the 288 in the portfolio are designated as Smoke-Free. Some units have been tenant designated and others have become smoke-free on turnover. This represents 22% of the DSB's Social Housing Portfolio.

Infrastructure & Asset Management

Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH)

The annual Ontario Renovates budget was increased to \$361,170 due to the transfer of \$64,150 from the Home Ownership program. There were 19 Ontario Renovates projects approved in 2015 and 17 were completed by the end of the year. The second emergency file of the year was completed in the fourth quarter. The demographics of those assisted were seniors, working poor, and accessibility. The distribution of the projects was as follows: 7-Manitoulin, 7-LaCloche, 3-Sudbury East, 2-Sudbury North.

The Homeownership dollars utilized for 2015 were \$10,850 as one family was housed through this program. There were three other interested parties in the program that were unable to gain bank secured mortgages and thus were not eligible for funding. The remainder of the Homeownership funds (\$64,150) for 2015 was transferred to the Ontario Renovates program with the approval of the CAO and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The Supervisor of Infrastructure has reached out to banking institutions to provide more information on the program and to promote its benefits. Advertising for the Investment in Affordable Housing will continue in the spring to ensure that communities are informed of the program.

Supervisor of Infrastructure & Asset Management

The fourth quarter major capital projects completed were the generator installations for the Gogama and Chapleau EMS bases. The 210 Mead parking lot expansion was completed as was the Mindemoya EMS base parking lot. The tendering for the Wikwemikong EMS Base siding replacement was completed and a successful bidder was selected. Final approval for this work is expected in the spring of 2016.

Infrastructure Maintenance Repairs and Capital Projects

A strong windstorm in the fall lead to roof repairs in both Espanola and Noëlville. There was significant rainfall during the fall without significant issues across the district. Custodians appreciated the delayed onset of snowfall as unit turnovers were prevalent, especially in Chapleau. There were 13 unit turnovers in the district and 271 Work orders underway during the fourth quarter.

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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