



**Minutes of the April 27, 2017**  
**MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSB BOARD MEETING**  
held in Espanola's 210 Mead Blvd. DSB Boardroom

- Present:** Bill Baker, Vern Gorham, Les Gamble, Bruce Killah, David Leonard, Al MacNevin, Ken Duplessis, Eric Russell, Paul Schoppmann, Ned Whynott, Dean Wenborne, Ted Lovelace, Michael Levesque
- Regrets :** Ray Dufour
- Staff :** Fern Dominelli, Donna Stewart, Connie Morphet, Robert Smith, Melody Ouellette, Patrick Wittmann, Ehren Baldauf
- Media:** Alicia McCutcheon, Manitoulin Expositor

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Les Gamble, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Resolution No. 17- 21**

**Moved by:** Al MacNevin

**Seconded by:** Dean Wenborne

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted.

**Carried**

**3.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**4.0 Closed Session**

**Resolution 17- 22**

**Moved by:** David Leonard

**Seconded by:** Michael Levesque

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board move into closed session at 10:00 a.m.

**Carried**

**Resolution 17- 23**

**Moved by:** Ned Whynott

**Seconded by:** Ted Lovelace

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 10:55 a.m.

**Carried**

**5.0 Business Arising from Closed Session**

During its Closed Session, the Board discussed Property and Human Resources Issues.

**6.0 Adoption of Minutes**

**Resolution No. 17- 24**

**Moved by:** Ken Duplessis

**Seconded by:** David Leonard

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the [February 23, 2017](#) Board meeting be approved.

**Carried**

**7.0 Committee Reports**

**Program Planning**

David Leonard, Chair of the Program Planning Committee, gave the Board a brief update on the topics discussed at the committee meeting.

**7.1 Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)**

Robert Smith, Chief of Paramedic Services, walked the Board through the [Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder - Prevention Plan](#).

On April 5, 2016, the Ontario legislature passed into law Bill 163: Supporting Ontario's First Responders Act. This legislation amends the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act to make any diagnosis of a first responder a presumptive work related illness.

Additionally, as part of the legislative process, an amendment was made to the Ministry of Labour Act allowing the Minister to direct impacted employers to produce and publish a PTSD Prevention Plan from all organizations responsible for emergency services. The Prevention Plan is required by April 2017.

The DSB has prepared a PTSD Prevention Plan and the plan will be submitted to the Ministry of Labour. The Plan is multifaceted and includes prevention, mitigation, response and recovery components.

Prevention Strategies include a pre-employment screening program that will be contracted to Dr. Paulette Laidlaw, of Canuckcare. The concept for pre-employment screening is to confirm a potential Paramedic's capacity to perform the requisite duties throughout their career. Ehren Baldauf, Human Resources Consultant, was asked about the implication of pre-employment testing from a human resources perspective. He highlighted that there are risks of a human rights complaint, particularly in the event that a conditional job offer is rescinded as a result of a Paramedic failing to successfully complete the pre-employment screening. He stated that a strong argument can be made that one's resilience is a bona fide occupational requirement in the case of paramedics, provided that the testing is appropriate and related to the job. In light of both the human and monetary impacts associated with occupational stress injury that results in PTSD, it was felt that the pre-employment screening along the lines of that utilized in other emergency response professions is worth doing.

Mitigation strategies include development of Paramedic resilience. Programs have been delivered to every member of the service to help them develop coping skills, and ultimately avoid occupational stress injury that results in PTSD.

The DSB's most recent addition to the education of our Paramedics is the Road to Mental Readiness Program, or R2MR. This program was developed by the Mental Health Commission of Canada and the Department of National Defence. It was originally developed for military personnel, but has been expanded for first responders, including Paramedics, Police Officers and Fire Fighters.

In September of 2016, two DSB Paramedics attended an Instructor Training program. These Paramedics returned with new knowledge and have delivered the program to each Paramedic, as well as all senior staff, including the CAO. The focus of R2MR is to build resiliency in or team and to give the management team the skills to recognize and action risk events.

Response to incidents of risk is specific to the need for a Peer Support Team. Staff are proposing a program through Canuckcare that will mirror what is currently in place in the City of Greater Sudbury Emergency Services. As the DSB has staff shared with the City of Greater Sudbury Emergency Services, there is an inherent benefit of common approaches to such processes.

The final piece of the PTSD strategy is recovery. The DSB has acquired the services of Physician in Little Current who specializes in PTSD treatment. The DSB met with him and he has agreed to work with any personnel who are in need. He has confirmed that he works to return Paramedics to their role through recovery.

**Resolution 17- 25****Moved by:** David Leonard**Seconded by:** Michael Levesque

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder - Prevention Plan and is recommending approval of this report to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approves the [Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder - Prevention Plan](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

**Carried****7.2 Response Time Standard**

Robert Smith, Chief of Paramedic Services, walked the Board through the [Response Time Standard – Issue Report](#).

In March of every year all ambulance services in Ontario are expected to submit their Response Time Standard performance results for the previous year.

The standard details responses with targets for patients in 6 different categories; sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), and patients presenting on the Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS) 1,2,3,4 & 5.

CTAS 1 refers to the severely ill, requires resuscitation, CTAS 2 requires emergent care and rapid medical intervention, CTAS 3 requires urgent care, CTAS 4 requires less-urgent care and CTAS 5 requires non-urgent care.

Response Time Standards were set by the Ministry of Health in very specific manners. The system requires the Direct Delivery Agents (DDA) to report target arrival to Sudden Cardiac Arrests events using a target time of 6 minutes from the time the Paramedics are notified of the call. For 2016, Manitoulin Sudbury DSB set the target at a 6-minute arrival, 25% of the time.

For CTAS 1 responses, the system requires the DDA to report target arrival using a target time of 8 minutes from the time the Paramedics are notified of the call. For 2016, Manitoulin Sudbury DSB set the target to an 8-minute arrival, 30% of the time. It is important to note that CTAS 1 volume is inclusive of Sudden Cardiac Arrest calls.

For the remaining call acuities (CTAS 2 through 5) the RTS allows for the DDA to set both the response target and the compliance target. The targets for these metrics were set as follows.

- CTAS 2 response target of 15 minutes 65% of the time
- CTAS 3 response target of 20 minutes 75% of the time
- CTAS 4 and 5 response target of 25 minutes 85% of the time

The targets for 2016 were met or exceeded in all categories, except CTAS 1 calls. In this case, our service scored 0.5% below the target set for ourselves.

There are challenges to success with the RTS system. Because the data points are manual inputs, made during high stress periods of time, where the Communications Officer may be managing multiple events, there exists a significant risk for input errors.

Beyond the challenges associated with the data source, rural and remote Paramedic Services such as Manitoulin Sudbury DSB are tested at a greater level to achieve target compliance. The 6 or 8-minute target times set by the Ministry are designed to maximum patient outcomes, however the significant geography and lack of resource density impacts negatively on success.

The Sudden Cardiac Arrest Response Time target is a unique metric represented by only 0.3% of the entire service 2016 call volume, while the CTAS 1 target, inclusive of SCA calls, is representative of less than 1% of the entire service volume.

#### **Resolution 17- 26**

**Moved by:** David Leonard

**Seconded by:** Dean Wenborne

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Response Time Standard - Issue Report and is recommending approval of this report to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approves the [Response Time Standard - Issue Report](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

**Carried**

### **7.3 Ontario Works Policy Revisions**

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the revisions to Ontario Works Policies [7B.15 Benefits/Discretionary Benefits](#) and [10.3 Direct Shelter Subsidy](#).

The Discretionary Benefits policy deals with the replacement or repair of essential household furniture and appliances. Currently, washing machines and dryers will generally only be considered where there are one (1) or more dependant children in the benefit unit.

The policy revision would allow for washing machines to be considered on a case by case basis where there are no laundromat facilities in their respective communities regardless of family size. The maximum payable for a washing machine is \$320.

The policy 10.3 Direct Shelter Subsidy (DSS) includes revisions to conditions of eligibility that will allow for more flexibility and better management of the Direct Shelter Subsidy Program.

#### **Resolution 17- 27**

**Moved by:** David Leonard

**Seconded by:** Michael Levesque

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the revisions to Ontario Works Policies 7B.15 Benefits/Discretionary Benefits and 10.3 Direct Shelter Subsidy and is recommending approval to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approves the revisions to policy [7B.15 Benefits/Discretionary Benefits](#) and [10.3 Direct Shelter Subsidy](#) contained within the Ontario Works Policy Manual effective May 1, 2017.

**Carried**

#### **7.4 Home for Good Funding**

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the [Home for Good Funding – Issue Report](#).

On March 27, 2017, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB staff received a [letter](#) from the Ministry of Housing, Assistant Deputy Minister Janet Hope, about the Province's new investment in supportive housing.

The Service Manager delivered component of this investment will be captured under a new program called Home for Good (HFG). HFG is an ongoing investment to support the goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2025. It will provide housing assistance and support services to people within the following four provincial priority homelessness areas:

- Chronic homelessness;
- Youth homelessness;
- Indigenous homelessness; and
- Homelessness following transitions from provincially-funded institutions and service systems (i.e. hospitals and prisons).

The Ministry of Housing will distribute two years of funds dedicated for Service Managers through an Expression of Interest process that has a May 19, 2017 due date.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB is putting forth a proposal for a Transitional Community Support Worker (TCSW) for Manitoulin Island to expand this program to other residents in other parts of our jurisdiction.

The proposal is based on a pilot undertaken by Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB in Partnership with Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) in 2016. The original pilot project intent was to support individuals in Social Housing maintain their tenancies by providing support in areas that could result in homelessness.

The DSB is currently having weekly Community Paramedicine Workshops in two locations on Manitoulin Island, which has proven to be very effective in reducing the number of Emergency calls for service in a short period. Further, it has been noted that having these workshops has brought out residents that were formerly considered shut-ins, and has facilitated with relationship building for harder to reach tenants for the TCSW through the more open and safe environment.

Our application includes a funding proposal totaling \$100,000 for the first year and \$104,000 for the second year.

### **Capital Component Program**

The HFG Expression of Interest document states that Service Managers are also able to request capital funding to create new supportive housing. The capital project must also deliver an associated operating funding component otherwise it will not be approved. The capital funding available to Service Managers for HFG in 2017-18 and 2018-19 is approximately \$60 million for each year. Service Managers are required to have “construction-ready” projects with confirmed proponents and necessary approvals in place to apply for this component and construction must be complete by April 2018.

The DSB staff recommend that the Board direct staff to determine an approach and possible cost estimate for a needs analysis to quantify the demand for new rental housing and supportive housing across the DSB jurisdiction.

### **Resolution 17- 28**

**Moved by:** David Leonard

**Seconded by:** Dean Wenborne

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Home for Good Funding - Issue Report and is recommending approval of this report to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approves the [Home for Good Funding - Issue Report](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

**Carried**

## Property Committee

The Property Committee met on April 26, 2017. Vern Gorham was elected Chair of the Property Committee.

Vern Gorham provided the Board a brief update on the topic discussed at the Property Committee meeting.

### 7.5 Social Housing Portfolio Review

Connie Morphet, Director of Finance, walked the Board through the [Social Housing Portfolio Review – Issue Report](#).

Financial viability of Social Housing buildings is a critical factor to consider when assessing sustainability of the portfolio. The End of Operating Agreements will further reduce funding. Changes made to the rental-rate mixture in buildings and the development of strategies to better suit community need and increase the financial viability of the buildings will help off set the reduction in funding.

Building Condition Assessments (BCA) were completed for each building in 2010 and provided the financial basis for the reserve fund as well as capital and maintenance future needs. A revision of the BCA's using an asset planner software is currently underway based on current costing.

One of the greatest changes in providing affordable housing is through the increase in the Direct Shelter Subsidy (DSS) programs. The flexibility of the program allows tenants the freedom to choose where they live in private rental accommodation. Should they need to move, their funding benefit moves with them to their new location.

Staff are recommending the development of a long-term draft portfolio plan based on an in-depth review of community need, 10-year housing and homelessness plan, sustainability and financial viability of the buildings.

#### **Resolution 17- 29**

**Moved by:** Vern Gorham

**Seconded by:** Ken Duplessis

WHEREAS the Property Committee has reviewed the Social Housing Portfolio Review - Issue Report and is recommending approval of this report to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Property Committees recommendation and approves the [Social Housing Portfolio Review - Issue Report](#) and directs staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

**Carried**

## 8.0 New Business

### 8.1 Ministry of Education

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, gave the Board updates on [Child Care Licensing](#) and [Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres](#).

#### Child Care Licensing

As of April 1, 2017, the ministry will begin to collect information about licensed child care operations on an annual basis in their database system. This information was previously collected through the 2012 and 2015 Licensed Child Care Operators' surveys.

The new Survey of Operations will collect information about hours of operation, enrolment, fees, waiting lists, staff wages and training. The ministry is collecting this information under the authority of section 70 of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* for the purposes of planning, delivering, evaluating, and monitoring child care programs and services. The survey information will be collected for each licensed child care centre and home child care agency.

The Ministry of Education is also working on an exciting new project to provide all child care program applicants and licensees with a Licensing Kit including standard and sample policies, procedures, templates and forms. This project is intended to support licensees' overall compliance with regulatory policy and record-keeping requirements while reducing delays in issuing new licenses.

It is anticipated that initial documents will be made available for download on the Early Years Portal starting in spring 2017, with the full Licensing Kit available in 2018. New applicants and licensees of child care programs in Ontario will be encouraged to adopt and/or consult the documents once they become available.

#### Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centre Updates

As the Province moves forward with the provincial plan to establish Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres by 2018, the Ministry of Education recognizes that they are at a critical point in the planning process where Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs)/District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs) require information about the allocations to finalize initial plans and work with communities to prepare for implementation.

The government remains committed to maintaining its current investment of over \$100M for child and family programs, and continues work to confirm the new funding approach and allocations for CMSMs/DSSABs for this transformation.

Because of these delays, they are extending the due date to submit initial plans for Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres from May 31, 2017 to September

29, 2017. The Ministry does recognize that 2018 will be a transition year for some communities, and initial plans for Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres will reflect local planning across the province.

As identified in the Planning Guidelines for Service System Managers, staff are required to submit a summary of their needs assessment and initial plans for Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres. Initial plans must include an accompanying rationale for site distribution/locations and programs/services to achieve the intended outcomes.

In preparation for the transition year, the Ministry is requesting that initial plans describe how programs and services will be delivered beginning January 1, 2018 (i.e., the organizations offering them, where they are located and whether sites are new, enhanced, or relocated) and how the system may be shifted over the course of the year.

Service agreements between the Ministry and organizations funded for existing child and family programs will remain in place until December 31, 2017.

## **8.2 Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care Community Paramedicine**

Robert Smith, Chief of Paramedic Services, gave the Board a verbal update on the Community Paramedicine Program.

As has been previously shared, the Community Paramedicine Program is a collaborative initiative designed to engage with health care partners and patients in the community, in a manner intended to reduce incidents of vulnerable patient hospital admission as well as reduction of Emergency Department (ED) visits. This strategy is known as ED and Admission avoidance.

The original program that was implemented included a process of Paramedic and patient interaction in the communities of Gore Bay and Gogama. While successful, the DSB has subsequently expanded the benefit of Community Paramedicine across the entire response area.

Weekly Integrated Paramedic Visits into DSB Social Housing Buildings. This program pairs Paramedics up with a Transitional Community Support Worker funded by CMHA/DSB to help at risk residents with health needs. This program was initiated in August of 2016 in Massey, Webbwood and Espanola, and was expanded in September of 2016 to Gore Bay and Manitowaning.

The Chapleau Hospital and Family Health Team are now linked with Paramedics to deliver post discharge home visits. This program is known as the Paramedic Circle of Care Home Visit program and staff are now averaging 2-3 referrals per week.

The Chapleau Hospital and the DSB are exploring an opportunity for ED avoidance in Foleyet. The concept would see patients of a lower acuity being transported to the clinic in Foleyet for assessment and potentially treatment rather than transport to Timmins.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB in concert with the Community Care Access Centres (CCAC) has been involved with the Local Health Integration Network's (LHIN) Telehomecare Program. Every Paramedic has been certified to install the system into the homes of CCAC clients. To date, there has been 40 systems installed and the program includes response referrals from CCAC where home visits result from trending challenges found by the Nursing team.

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) has recently announced permanent funding for Community Paramedicine program through the Province's Local Health Integration Networks.

Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB, along with Algoma DSSAB and Cochrane DSSAB had a recent teleconferenced with the North East LHIN staff. The LHIN has directed currently funded services to submit status of programs and future evolution of Community Paramedicine program direction. The LHIN will then work to determine a funding direction. The LHIN made it clear during the teleconference that 2016/2017 funding would likely remain in effect at that level. There is no capacity to increase funding.

### **8.3 Ministry of Housing-Supportive Housing Investment**

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the Supportive Housing Investment Strategy.

The Ontario Governments recent [News Release](#) states that Ontario is increasing its investment in housing assistance and supports across the province to help up to 6,000 families in need remain permanently housed - a major step forward in its goal to end chronic homelessness by 2025. Twenty per cent of the new funding will be dedicated to supporting Indigenous people.

The new supports, such as counselling, addictions services and life skills training, will help people who are homeless and experiencing addictions, or living with mental illness or disabilities, to obtain housing and remain permanently housed. The funding will allow municipalities and Indigenous organizations to deliver ongoing supportive housing programs that best meet the needs of chronically homeless people in their communities.

This investment builds on the three-year funding for supportive housing that was previously announced in March 2016 as part of the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy update. In the coming days, the province will launch a selection process to choose a number of municipalities to participate in the program, and will work

with Indigenous partners to select organizations that will deliver these services for Indigenous people.

[The Supportive Housing Policy Framework](#) along with recent new investments in supportive housing, will help to transform the system into one that better meets people's individual needs and preferences. The Framework is an aspirational document that sets out a common path forward to transform Ontario's supportive housing system. It will take time and contributions from all people and organizations involved in supportive housing to achieve this vision. This will help address unmet demand, fragmented client access, program inconsistent with best practices, lack of coordination across systems and limited data to support evidence-based policy. The Supportive Housing Policy Framework provides the foundation for current and future provincial initiatives to improve Ontario's supportive housing system.

#### **8.4 Ministry of Health & Long Term-Care – Wikwemikong First Nation Paramedic Funding**

Connie Morphet, Director of Finance, walked the Board through a letter received from the Ministry of Health regarding the [Wikwemikong First Nation Paramedic Service](#). The DSB manages and delivers the Wikwemikong Paramedic Service under a contract with the Province of Ontario which provides for 100% provincial funding for this service.

The Wikwemikong Paramedic Service 2016/17 Budget includes one-time funding of \$165,221 to support the purchase of a new ambulance and for any increase in operating costs. This one-time expense could not occur as the budget was approved on March 27, 2017 and the ambulance had to be delivered by March 31, 2017. Staff will make a new request this year to have a new ambulance funded.

It also includes an increase of \$10,537 to the budget which includes ongoing regular increases for benefits and some building repairs, but did not include wage increases due to the OPSEU finalized collective agreement not being available

#### **8.5 Ministry of Housing – Strategy to End Human Trafficking**

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the [Ministry of Housing's Strategy to End Human Trafficking](#).

On June 30, 2016, the province announced its multi-sector Strategy to End Human Trafficking. The Strategy includes the establishment of two Funds, the Community-Based Support (CBS) Fund and the Indigenous-Led Initiatives (ILI) Fund, with the aim of improving and extending access to supports and community-based services for survivors of human trafficking. Examples of eligible supports and services include housing, mental health and addiction services, emergency funding for travel and accommodation, trauma counselling, job skills and language training for survivors.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) - through the Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office - will be issuing a Call for Proposals to invite eligible organizations to submit applications for funding under the CBS Fund. The fund will be dedicated to Indigenous-led and community focused projects and is being designed in collaboration with Indigenous partners.

The Ministry of Housing (MHO) has set aside funding under the 2016 Social Infrastructure Fund - Investment in Affordable Housing (SIF-IAH) program for eligible housing proposals. Given our vital role as housing and homelessness system planners, project proponents would be required to partner with the local Service Manager in the development of a "housing initiative" submission.

SIF-IAH funding could be used for the creation of new affordable rental housing, or as operating funding to provide housing allowances and/or rent supplements. In both cases, proposals which include a housing component would need to be consistent with current program requirements under the Rental Housing and Operating components of the 2016 SIF-IAH.

#### **8.6 Ministry of Housing – Innovation, Evidence and Capacity Building Fund**

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the [Ministry of Housing's Innovation, Evidence and Capacity Building Fund](#).

The Ministry of Housing is launching a Call for Grant Proposals for the Innovation, Evidence, and Capacity Building (IEC) Fund. The IEC Fund will provide up to \$1 million in 2017-18 and aims to increase local sector capacity, encourage an evidence-based orientation and support the capacity of the system under the key themes of the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy Update.

The IEC Fund will provide grants of varying amounts up to a maximum of \$100,000 in 2017-18 for each approved proposal. Eligible applicants include not-for-profit organizations, municipal associations, registered charities, municipalities, District Social Services Administrative Boards (DSSABs), and other public bodies (e.g. academic institutions, and school boards).

The Call for Grant Proposals documents and the Application Form were received and staff are currently reviewing the information to determine whether we will apply for this fund.

#### **8.7 Ontario Good Roads Association – Meeting with Minister Matthews**

On February 27, Les Gamble Chair of the DSB along with Barry Baltessen, Chair of the Kenora DSB meet with Minister Deb Mathews, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development.

This was a joint meeting with Minister Mathews as the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB had requested a delegation with the Minister as well as NOSDA.

The initial part of the meeting dealt with the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB request that DSB be treated as the Service System Manager for the purposes of the Employment Ontario Suite of Employment Services.

The DSB wants to be the Service System Manager for the organizations that deliver EO within our jurisdiction. The Minister was very supportive of the DSB ideas and concepts, she asked how this could be implemented. She indicated her staff would work with us to develop a plan.

### **8.8 Ministry of Community & Social Services**

Mayors of Member Municipalities/TWOMO Representative and District of Cochrane received a letter from Minister Jaczek regarding issues raised by the District of Cochrane Social Services Administration Board members as it relates to the cost apportionment formula under the District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSAB) Act.

Minister Jaczek wanted to share the government's perspective that the DSSAB Act, in setting out a default apportionment formula of weighted assessment, is aimed at supporting a fair approach to the sharing of costs within a district. This approach expressly delinks levies from service usage, in recognition that sharing costs across a district with due regard to ability to pay is essential to support and sustain equitable access to social services in all communities. While the Act allows for an alternative model, the implicit assumption is that any alternative should not create an untenable imbalance in cost among member areas that could compromise (or destabilize) access to services for the people of Northern Ontario.

### **8.9 Ministry of Community & Social Services – Basic Income Consultations**

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, updated the Board on the Basic Income Guarantee pilot announced by the Province this week. Three regions were chosen for the pilot. Randomly selected individuals will be contacted to apply for the pilot.

In a [News release](#), Premier Kathleen Wynne announced details of the Pilot on Monday April 24, 2017.

The three-year study will test how a basic income might improve the health, education and job prospects of those living on low incomes.

The plan for the Pilot builds on feedback received from province-wide consultations, compiled in the [Basic Income Consultations: What We Heard](#) report, as well as the advice the government received from the Honorable Hugh Segal in his [discussion paper](#).

Three regions will take part in the study. Pilots will start in late spring in Hamilton, including Brantford and Brant County; and in Thunder Bay and the surrounding area. The third pilot will start by this fall in Lindsay.

Beginning this spring, randomly selected individuals in Hamilton, Brantford, and Brant County, and Thunder Bay and surrounding area will receive information in the mail inviting them to apply to be part of the Pilot. Lindsay will be added in later this year.

About 4,000 people will be included to participate in this Pilot if they choose. They must be 18 to 64 years old, and have lived on a low income in one of the test locations for at least the last 12 months or longer.

Participants will receive:

- Up to \$16,989 per year for a single person, less 50 per cent of any earned income
- Up to \$24,027 per year for a couple, less 50 per cent of any earned income
- Up to an additional \$6,000 per year for a person with a disability.

Income from other programs, such as the Canada Pension Plan and Employment Insurance, will reduce the Basic Income payment dollar for dollar. But income related to children, such as the Ontario Child Benefit and child support, will be exempt.

Ontario Works and ODSP recipients who are randomly selected and voluntarily agree to leave social assistance to participate in the Pilot will retain their eligibility for the Ontario Drug Benefit, and those on ODSP and their spouses will remain eligible for dental benefits if they were receiving them prior to entering the Pilot.

The study will be evaluated by a third-party research consortium to be announced later. The province will form an advisory group with research and evaluation experts to ensure the Pilot is conducted with the utmost integrity, rigour and ethical standards.

In a separate but parallel process, a basic income pilot for individual residing in First Nations communities is being co-created and designed with First Nations leadership and partners. Planning is in the early stages.

## **9.0 Other Business**

### **NOSDA Annual General Meeting**

June 7, 8 and 9, 2017

Best Western Hotel and Conference Centre,  
700 Lakeshore Drive, North Bay, Ontario, P1A 2G4

10.0 Next Meeting – May 25, 2017

11.0 Adjournment

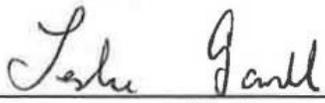
**Resolution 17- 30**

**Moved by:** Al MacNevin

**Seconded by:** David Leonard

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 12:20 p.m. until the next regular meeting to be held, in the DSB's Espanola Mead Boulevard Board Room on May 25, 2017.

**Carried**

  
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Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CAO (Secretary-Treasurer  
of the Corporation)