



**THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD
BOARD REPORT**

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DATE PREPARED	August 18, 2009	REPORT NO.: 2009-26
MEETING DATE	September 17, 2009	TBDSSAB File No.: 440.01 / 440.02P
SUBJECT	2009 Ontario Works Budget	

REPORT SUMMARY

In follow up to Report No. 2009CS-06 (Ontario Works) presented on May 21, 2009, this will provide The Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with an update as to our 2009 Ontario Works budget submission.

BACKGROUND

In December 2008 Administration submitted two business cases for consideration of the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) Ontario Works Corporate Office: (1) a method of addressing the projected employment deficit for 2009 through redirection of client benefit costs from employment funding to social assistance payments, and (2) for continued funding of our Employment Training and Internship Program. In December 2008 we were advised by the MCSS Regional Program Supervisor that our requests were not supported. Consequently, the Employment Training and Internship Program ended as of December 31, 2009, and an alternative method to deal with the projected employment deficit was undertaken pursuant to Board Resolution 09/55 (May 21, 2009).

In January 2009 Administration met with MCSS Regional representatives who advised that administrative costs (e.g., expenses from the offices of the Chief Administrative Officer, Finance Division and services purchased from the City of Thunder Bay) should not be allocated and charged to employment and addictions programs. At that time Regional staff was informed that the TBDSSAB's budget for 2009 had been approved and pending receipt of sufficient provincial funding Administration would proceed with making changes.

COMMENTS

Cost of Administration: Relative to the increasing cost of delivery since the freezing of the provincial allocation in 2003 the Ontario Works Budget and the

increasing caseload, the TBDSSAB's budget submission to the Province for 2009 reflected a gross budget of \$5,252,400 (\$2,754,800; \$2,497,600 TBDSSAB). The provincial allocation that was approved is \$2,712,692, being \$42,108 less than proposed. Based upon the provincial allocation the TBDSSAB's share of the new Ontario Works budget would be \$2,497,600 which is \$74,600 over the TBDSSAB's Budget approved November 27, 2008 (Resolution No. 08/93).

Employment Assistance: The MCSS has advised of an additional one-time allocation of \$65,051 for 2009 on condition that the TBDSSAB contribute its 20% share (\$16,263).

Rather than levying the municipalities for the shortfall or depleting limited Ontario Works Reserves, the TBDSSAB can direct that the \$90,863 shortfall be paid through one of the following means:

Option #1: the new Community Social Reinvestment Program which replaces the former National Child Benefit Reinvestment Fund [Report No. 2009-23 (Ontario Works) introduces this new program];

or

Option #2: through the TBDSSAB's general surplus arising from surpluses in the Housing, Child Care and Ontario Disability Support Program benefits budgets [see Administrative Summary No. ADM2009-09 (Finance)].

CONCLUSION

It is concluded should TBDSSAB not contribute:

- (1) \$74,600 towards Cost of Administration then the provincial allocation will be reduced by \$74,600 resulting in overall \$149,200 reduction in potential cost of administration funding for the Ontario Works program in 2009; and
- (2) \$16,263 towards Employment Assistance funding then the TBDSSAB will not be able to access the additional one-time Employment Assistance allocation of \$65,051.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT with respect to Report No. 2009-26 (Ontario Works) we recommend that the Ontario Works budget shortfalls of \$74,600 in Cost of Administration and \$16,263 in Employment Assistance be paid pursuant to Option # ____ as set out in Report No. 2009-26.

REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED

None.

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