



	<b>REPORT No.: 2018-47</b>
<b>MEETING DATE: JUNE 28, 2018</b>	<b>DATE PREPARED: JUNE 6, 2018</b>
<b>SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP ON CHILD CARE FUNDING IN RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES</b>	

### **RECOMMENDATION**

For information only.

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

To provide The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with information pertaining to the Working Group on Child Care Funding in Rural and Remote Communities (the Working Group).

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2017, the Province announced its Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework, which contained various initiatives aimed at maintaining and expanding high-quality, accessible, and affordable child care options for families in Ontario.

To help support this plan, and in recognition of the significant barriers experienced by Service Managers and child care providers in rural and remote communities, the Province established the Working Group.

The mandate of the Working Group was to engage and solicit input from key child care sector stakeholders to provide advice and recommendations to the Ministry of Education on:

- Successful practices and delivery challenges in rural and remote communities;
- Rural and remote considerations in the Child Care Funding Formula and the Ontario Child Care and Child and Family Program Service Management and Funding Guideline; and,
- Alignment of child care funding with broader Provincial priorities.

The Working Group was chaired by a representative of the Ministry of Education, and the membership consisted of eight (8) representatives from various Service Managers whose service area was considered predominantly rural or remote. TBDSSAB was represented on this Working Group by Keri Greaves, Manager, Finance.

## **COMMENTS**

The Working Group convened several meetings between September 2017 and March 2018. These meetings provided a forum for members to share experiences, challenges, ideas, and business practices. Representatives from the Ministry of Education attended the meetings to listen, and engage with the group.

Through these discussions, the Working Group developed three (3) recommendations to be presented to the Ministry of Education:

- **Build a Sustained Rural and Remote Network**
  - The Working Group provided a valuable opportunity to share ideas and provide feedback to the Ministry. A Sustained Rural and Remote Network would enable further input;
- **Facilitate ongoing collaboration**
  - The Province should consult with this Sustained Rural and Remote Network regarding policies under development, to ensure that the concerns of rural and remote communities are considered, and appropriate supports are provided;
- **Develop service system management resources**
  - The Sustained Rural and Remote Network would be tasked with creating resources to share best practices and innovative ideas in rural and remote communities.

In a letter (Attachment 1), dated April 25, 2018, the Assistant Deputy Minister, Shannon Fuller, confirmed that the Early Years and Child Care Division of the Ministry of Education has endorsed these recommendations.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**



There are no direct financial implications to this report.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is concluded that the Working Group provided a valuable opportunity to share ideas and experiences, as they relate to providing child care and early years' programs in rural and remote communities, and the endorsement of the Working Group's recommendations should be supported.

**REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED**

Attachment 1: [Letter from Assistant Deputy Minister, Shannon Fuller](#)

<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Keri Greaves, CPA, CMA, Acting Director – Corporate Services Division The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board
<b>APPROVED / SIGNATURE:</b>	 Keri Greaves, CPA, CMA, Acting Director – Corporate Services Division The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board
<b>SUBMITTED / SIGNATURE:</b>	 William (Bill) Bradica, Chief Administrative Officer The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board

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April 25, 2018

To the Working Group on Child Care Funding in Rural and Remote Communities

On behalf of the Early Years and Child Care Division, I would like to thank you for your time and participation in the Working Group on Child Care Funding in Rural and Remote Communities.

The group's recommendations to network, foster collaboration, and develop service system management resources will serve to further support children and families across Ontario and to remind us of the unique circumstances that communities in rural and remote settings face when planning and delivering child care.

The Early Years and Child Care Division has endorsed all of the Working Group's recommendations. Your expertise and knowledge will help to inform our approach to planning and supporting child care in rural and remote areas, and I look forward to working with you on building a sustained rural and remote network.

I am confident that your recommendations will help to give our children the best start in life as we continue to provide quality early years services across Ontario. Thank you again for your dedication and support to this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Fuller".

Shannon Fuller  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Early Years and Child Care Division