



	<b>REPORT No.: 2019-08</b>
<b>MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2019</b>	<b>DATE PREPARED: JANUARY 29, 2019</b>
<b>SUBJECT: HOUSING SERVICES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

For information only.

**REPORT SUMMARY**

To provide The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with information relative to community engagement sessions regarding TBDSSAB housing programs and services.

**BACKGROUND**

The TBDSSAB's Strategic Plan 2017-2020 includes the strategic direction to *Enhance Communication with Clients and Partner Groups*. To fulfill this strategic direction, beginning in the spring of 2017, a total of seven (7) presentations were made in various communities throughout the District of Thunder Bay. The communities visited to date include: Greenstone, Terrace Bay, Nipigon, Shuniah, Oliver Paipoonge, Marathon, and Schreiber. Additionally, several community trade shows and events were attended in the City of Thunder Bay.

**COMMENTS**

In preparation for each community engagement presentation, the Director – Housing Services Division and Manager, Housing & Homelessness Programs worked with the Supervisor, Communications and Engagement, to connect with municipal staff to assist in choosing a venue and promoting the event within their community. These presentations would not have been as successful without the support and involvement of each community's Administration.

The average participation in the community engagement sessions has been approximately 11 individuals per session with a high of approximately 28 attending in Greenstone and no one attending the event hosted in Shuniah.

The content of the community engagement sessions provided a high level overview of all TBDSSAB services, Board composition, and the evolution of TBDSSAB as an organization before shifting into a focus on TBDSSAB Housing Services. Detailed information was provided on the types of housing and homelessness prevention supports provided, and direction on how to connect with each type of program. Each presentation took approximately 90 minutes with an average of 30 minutes at the end for questions.

The engagement during each session has been overwhelmingly positive with many questions relating to housing options and the Ontario Renovates program. Many attending the presentations asked about program eligibility, what was provided through the program and how to apply. Questions related to the Housing Security Fund were also frequent, seeking information on what would qualify and how to apply.

Printed information was provided to attendees at each presentation, and was also left with staff in each community. Additionally, information on how to connect with TBDSSAB and access services was provided.

The Housing Services team will continue to reach out to communities to offer presentations and community visits throughout the coming year.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**



There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**CONCLUSION**

It is concluded that this report provides information relative to the Housing Services Division’s community engagement presentations.

**REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED**

None.

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