

## Human services leaders gather in Thunder Bay for OMSSA Leadership Symposium

**THUNDER BAY, May 1, 2019** – More than 200 human services, municipal and community leaders from across Ontario will be coming to Thunder Bay to participate in the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association’s (OMSSA) Leadership Symposium and Annual General Meeting from May 13 to 15 at the Valhalla Inn.

OMSSA’s Leadership Symposium is the top professional development and networking opportunity for human services professionals, attracting staff from Ontario’s 47 service system managers – District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs) and Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) – who oversee and deliver critical social services such as income and employment supports, community housing, homelessness services and prevention, and child care and early years services in their communities.

The 2019 Leadership Symposium will be hosted in partnership with the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB), with opportunities for delegates from across Ontario to learn from TBDSSAB and local best practices.

“The Leadership Symposium is where Ontario’s human services leaders come together to solve shared challenges and create better opportunities for all of Ontario’s communities,” said Doug Ball, OMSSA’s Executive Director.

“This year, we are thrilled to be showcasing Thunder Bay and TBDSSAB’s success stories in supporting people to improve their lives and become self-sufficient through the delivery of quality social services.”

Delegates will have opportunities to learn from local best practices through two offsite tours, featuring the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre (TBIFC) and the new Waabagonee EarlyON Centre, as well as a number of TBDSSAB’s innovative community housing sites.

“TBDSSAB is very excited to host the OMSSA Leadership Symposium for the first time,” stated William Bradica, CAO, TBDSSAB.

“It’s an opportunity for delegates to travel north to experience the vastness of the District of Thunder Bay, while also understanding how TBDSSAB delivers innovative initiatives in social services to help support people to improve their self-sufficiency.

Mayor of Thunder Bay Bill Mauro and TBDSSAB Chair Lucy Kloosterhuis will welcome delegates to Thunder Bay as the conference kicks off on the morning of Tuesday, May 14.

The program also features more than 16 sessions and workshops reflecting the broad scope of service manager responsibilities, and three inspiring keynote addresses, including:

- **Dr. JP Gedeon**, an award-winning speaker and one of North America’s foremost experts on transformative leadership



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- **Autumn Peltier**, internationally-renowned Indigenous water advocate and recipient of OMSSA's inaugural Young Leader Award
- **Nina Spencer**, best-selling author of *Getting Passion Out of Your Profession*

[Full program details are available on OMSSA's website.](#)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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*The Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) is a non-profit organization whose members are Ontario's Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs). By supporting, connecting and advocating for our members across Ontario, we help them to achieve their collective mission of delivering the best human services outcomes for Ontario's communities.*

*The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) manages vital social services for individuals and families living in the District of Thunder Bay. TBDSSAB supports people to improve their lives and become self-sufficient through the delivery of quality social services including child care, housing and Ontario Works.*