



	REPORT No.: 2020-11
MEETING DATE: MARCH 19, 2020	DATE PREPARED: MARCH 4, 2020
SUBJECT: TBDSSAB RECOMMENDATIONS RE: ONTARIO'S NEW POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY	

RECOMMENDATION

THAT with respect to Report No. 2020-11 (Integrated Social Services Division), we approve the submission in relation to Ontario's renewed Poverty Reduction Strategy as presented;

AND THAT the Board authorizes The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) Administration to submit the approved TBDSSAB recommendations to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

REPORT SUMMARY

To provide The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or Board) with information and Administration's recommendations with respect to Ontario's renewed Poverty Reduction Strategy.

BACKGROUND

In December, 2019 the provincial government launched consultations on a new Poverty Reduction Strategy required as part of the *Poverty Reduction Strategy Act*.

Every five years, Ontario must consult on and develop a new Poverty Reduction Strategy to identify opportunities for action and collaboration with partners and to measure and report on progress. The goal of this consultation is to determine actions to reduce poverty and to set specific and realistic targets and prioritized actions to reduce the incidences of poverty in Ontario.

COMMENTS

At this time, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) has invited Ontario residents and organizations to provide written submissions. In response to this invitation, TBDSSAB administration has created a position paper with recommendations asking the Province of Ontario to consider the following in the Poverty Reduction Strategy:

- A focus on adults with addictions and mental health issues;
- Support for Expanded EarlyON Child and Family Programming;
- The adequacy of Ontario Works benefit rates;
- A new model for social assistance for clients with employment barriers;
- OW discretionary drug benefits.

Previous consultations with a diversity of stakeholders concluded a focus on addictions and mental health, an increase in Ontario Works shelter rates, a new model for social assistance and OW drug benefits are required to address the growing issues of poverty, homelessness and access to affordable housing in the District of Thunder Bay.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS



There are no financial implication arising from this report.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that this report provides the Board with information and Administration’s recommendations with respect to the TBDSSAB’s response to the MCCSS New Poverty Reduction Strategy.

REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED

Attachment #1 [TBDSSAB Submission to Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy](#)

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