



	REPORT No.: 2021-65
MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 16, 2021	DATE PREPARED: DECEMBER 2, 2021
SUBJECT: 2022 RURAL ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE BRIEFINGS PACKAGE	

RECOMMENDATION

THAT with respect to Report No. 2021-65 (CAO Division), we, The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (the Board), approve the delegation briefings package for the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) 2022 conference as presented;

AND THAT we direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to send the delegation package to the appropriate provincial Ministries;

AND THAT the Briefings Package be circulated to all member municipalities, the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers' Association, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

AND THAT the CAO attend the virtual 2022 ROMA conference to provide support to the Board Chair and other Board members in their meetings with provincial officials regarding these issues.

REPORT SUMMARY

To provide The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with the briefings package for the 2022 ROMA conference for review and approval.

BACKGROUND

ROMA will be holding its 2022 Annual Conference virtually, January 24–26, 2022. As part of the programming for the Annual Conference, organizations may submit requests to meet with a Minister or Parliamentary Assistant.

COMMENTS

Briefings have been developed by the Integrated Social Services Division team in consultation with the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer on eight issues that are

recommended to the Board for advocacy with provincial Ministers. The ROMA conference is one opportunity for the Board Chair, supported by other Board members and Administration, to present these issues to Ministers.

The Briefings Package contains a total of eight key recommendations to four Ministries.

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS)

- 1) **Social Assistance Rates:** TBDSSAB urges the MCCSS to address the adequacy of current social assistance rates for recipients of Ontario Works.
- 2) **Indigenous Board Representation:** TBDSSAB requests that MCCSS considers changes to the DSSAB Act to allow for additional appointments by the Boards to include Indigenous representation.
- 3) **DSSAB Legislation and Governance:** TBDSSAB requests that MCCSS finalize the changes to the DSSAB Act, Regulations and Governance and Accountability Guidelines.

Ministry of Education

- 4) **Child Care Workforce Development:** TBDSSAB requests that the Ministry of Education provide Service Managers with ongoing funding for the recruitment, retention and workforce development of child care staff, and establish a provincial panel to strategize on the long-term future of child care.
- 5) **Before & After School Program Delivery:** TBDSSAB requests that the Ministry of Education provide firm direction to School Boards regarding their responsibility for Before and After School program Delivery.

Ministry of Health (MOH)

- 6) **Transitional & Supportive Housing:** TBDSSAB requests that the MOH partner with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) to provide designated funding in the District of Thunder Bay for a new purpose-built transitional housing project(s) consisting of a minimum of 50 units with Rent Supplements and mental health and addictions agencies to be provided a long term commitment for support funding to ensure that supports can be provided to individuals accessing these units.
- 7) **Mental Health & Addictions Supports for In Situ Tenants:** TBDSSAB requests that the MOH partner with MMAH to provide designated funding in the District of Thunder Bay for mental health and addictions supports for in situ tenants of community housing.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- 8) **Homelessness Prevention Funding:** TBDSSAB requests that the MMAH combine the Home for Good and Community Homelessness and Prevention Initiative (CHPI) allocations and increase the combined amount to \$5,440,093 and allow for capital projects to be funded through CHPI.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS



There are no immediate financial implications related to this report.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that the briefings package is recommended for approval.

REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED

Attachment #1 [Briefings Package for the 2022 ROMA Conference](#)

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