



THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

2023-24 HPP Capital Projects Announcement

PRESS KIT

April 26, 2024
Thunder Bay, Ontario

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Media Release

TBDSSAB Announces Capital Projects funded through Homelessness Prevention Program

April 26, 2024 – The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) is announcing capital investments in transitional housing funded through the province’s Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP).

Minister Calandra and MPP Kevin Holland were joined by representatives from TBDSSAB and funded organizations to make the announcement today in Thunder Bay.

HPP is a provincially funded program that aims to prevent, reduce, and address homelessness. Through HPP, TBDSSAB funds multiple homelessness prevention initiatives, including supportive housing, community outreach and support services, housing assistance and emergency shelter solutions. For the 2023-24 fiscal year, TBDSSAB received \$16,549,000 in HPP funding from the province and allocated over 50% to capital projects.

Four initiatives have received capital funding from TBDSSAB through HPP. The combined total for all projects is \$9,238,000 and 52 transitional housing units in the city of Thunder Bay.

Elizabeth Fry Society of Northwestern Ontario , to create 9 transitional living units in a purchased and renovated home.	\$ 714,000
Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services , to support the creation of four (4) one-bedroom units in their Huron Avenue affordable housing development.	\$ 1,300,000
Northern Linkage Community Housing and Support Services , for the creation of 22 new units in a purchased and renovated building, with 24/7 supports provided by St. Joseph’s Care Group .	\$ 3,045,000
Shelter House Thunder Bay , to develop 17 new units in a purchased building, with health supports provided by NorWest Community Health Centres .	\$ 4,179,000
TOTAL	\$ 9,238,000

Quotes

- “On behalf of the Board, I want to thank The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for making today’s announcement possible. People in our communities need more housing options that meet them where they are, and transitional spaces accomplish this. Today’s announcement will change lives.”
– **Brian Hamilton, Board Chair, TBDSSAB**
- “We are so grateful to the Ministry for the HPP funding increase, and to community partners for coming forward with their project proposals. Our service system is stronger as a result of the partnerships that have formed and grown through these projects. Today’s announcement adds a combined 52 transitional units. I am thrilled to finally share this good news and look forward to the positive impact this will have on our communities.” – **Bill Bradica, Chief Executive Officer, TBDSSAB**
- "HPP funding has empowered EFSNWO to acquire a property dedicated to serving as a transition home, with 9 units accommodating individuals in need. Recognizing the pressing need for safe and inclusive spaces, particularly for Indigenous women* and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals who face disproportionate systemic challenges, the new home will provide support for those experiencing severe forms of marginalization and vulnerability."
- **Lindsay Martin, Executive Director and System Advocate, Elizabeth Fry Society of Northwestern Ontario**
- “NorWest CHC and Shelter House Thunder Bay proudly introduce our collaborative partnership. With this support, we will establish a transformative transitional housing unit at 401 Donald Street East, adding 17 units to Thunder Bay's housing system and alleviating pressure on TBDSSAB's High Needs Homeless waitlist. This project will also provide improvement to the adjoining Kwae-Kii-Win Housing Project. This 'housing-first' model aims to cater to chronically homeless individuals, transitioning them from emergency shelters to a better-equipped facility at 401 Donald Street East. The new site will not only enhance quality of life but also provide essential medical care, including two additional palliative care beds, ensuring dignified end-of-life care for substance-involved individuals. Together, we're committed to fostering a community where every individual has access to the care and support they deserve. We believe this to be a wholistic model which will now have the space and ability to bring in other community support agencies, thereby providing opportunities for enhanced comprehensive care and culturally relevant services”.
- **Juanita Lawson, CEO, NorWest CHC & Paul Capon, Chair, Shelter House**

Thunder Bay

- “Ontario Aboriginal Housing (OAHS) is honoured to be a part of the Huron Avenue housing development in Thunder Bay, made possible through the invaluable support of the provincial government's Homelessness Prevention Program and Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board. This initiative underscores our shared commitment to providing safe and affordable housing and aims to foster inclusivity and empowerment within the Thunder Bay community. Together, we're building not just homes, but foundations for brighter futures.”

- Cora McGuire-Cyrette, Board Chair of Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services / CEO of Ontario Native Women's Association

- “People living with mental illness deserve a safe place to call home, and the Homelessness Prevention Program funding was designed with the flexibility to meet local needs. For Northern Linkage, our goal is to not just create those homes, but to also be part of a thriving and vital community,” - **Luca Loffredo, Executive Director of Northern Linkage**
- “St. Joseph's Care Group has worked in partnership with Northern Linkage for many years by providing the supports that people need to live as independently as possible. We have seen firsthand the positive impact of housing with supports, and applaud this investment,” - **Janine Black, President & CEO of St. Joseph's Care Group**

Related news

- April 26, 2024: [Ontario Building More Supportive Housing in Thunder Bay](#)
- June 29, 2023: [TBDSSAB Announces HPP Investment Plan](#)
- April 4, 2023: [Ontario Providing More Supportive Housing for Vulnerable People](#)

Funded Project Details

Elizabeth Fry

TBDSSAB awarded Elizabeth Fry Society of Northwestern Ontario (EFSNWO) \$714,000 in capital funding through HPP to create nine (9) new transitional living spaces in a purchased and renovated home. Supports are proposed as 24/7 onsite.

Highlights

- HPP Capital Funding through TBDSSAB: \$714,000
- # of units funded by HPP: 9
- Location: 400 Archibald Street, Thunder Bay
- Construction start date: December 2023

About:

Elizabeth Fry Society Northwestern Ontario is a charitable organization that supports and advocates for women, Two-Spirit, non-binary and gender diverse people in prison, those transitioning back into the community, and those at risk of criminalization. We work to provide integrated programs and support services that best meet the needs of our clients and their families, with the goal of fostering independence, building healthy communities and reducing incarceration. Visit www.elizabethfrynwo.org/ for more information.

Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services

TBDSSAB awarded Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) \$1,300,000 in capital funding through HPP to support their affordable housing development on Huron Avenue in the city of Thunder Bay. This HPP funding will support four (4) units in phase 1 of the development which will contain a total of 24 one-bedroom units in two three-story buildings.

Highlights

- HPP Capital Funding through TBDSSAB: \$1,300,000
- # of units funded by HPP: 4
- Location: 1040 Huron Avenue, Thunder Bay
- Construction start date: Sitework for phase 1 began in 2023, with construction in 2024.

About

Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services is a corporation with a mandate to provide safe and affordable housing to urban and rural First Nation, Inuit and Métis people living off-Reserve in Ontario. Our vision is to lead the design, development and delivery of a sustainable and culturally appropriate continuum of housing that promotes excellence in the community and organizational infrastructures. Visit www.ontarioaboriginalhousing.ca/ for more information.

Northern Linkage

TBDSSAB awarded Northern Linkage Community Housing and Support Services \$3,045,000 in capital funding through HPP for the creation of 22 new units in a purchased and renovated building linked with other support services. The proposal supports long term supportive housing for individuals with mental health issues, with 24/7 supports provided by St. Joseph's Care Group. The goal is to transition ready individuals from hospital, other institutional spaces, and shelter environments where supports are needed.

Highlights

- HPP Capital Funding through TBDSSAB: \$3,045,000
- Health care partner: St. Joseph's Care Group
- # of units funded by HPP: 22
- Location: 201 Brock Street, Thunder Bay
- Construction start date: January 2024.

About

Northern Linkage Community Housing and Support Services

Northern Linkage provides rental accommodations (some subsidized) to persons of low income with psychiatric illnesses or who are developmentally disabled. Visit northernlinkage.tbayit.com for more information.

St. Joseph's Care Group

St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) combines tradition and innovation in responding to the unmet needs of the people of Northwestern Ontario since 1884. We are here for our

clients, offering a broad range of programs and services in Mental Health & Addictions, Rehabilitative Care, and Seniors' Health across eight sites in the City of Thunder Bay. Visit www.sjcg.net for more information.

Shelter House Thunder Bay

TBDSSAB awarded Shelter House Thunder Bay \$4,179,000 in capital funding through HPP to develop 17 new units in a purchased building. The focus for this project is to provide transitional housing for homeless individuals with health supports provided by NorWest Community Health Centres. Additional supports would be provided by Shelter House, with some operational funding provided by TBDSSAB through HPP. Transition between existing supportive shelter services to greater independent living is the long-term goal of this initiative.

Highlights

- HPP Capital Funding through TBDSSAB: \$4,179,000
- Health care partner: NorWest Community Care Centres
- # of units funded by HPP: 17
- Location: 401 Donald Street East, Thunder Bay
- Construction start date: January 2024.

About

Shelter House Thunder Bay

Shelter House offers emergency relief and essential resources in Thunder Bay. We provide food, shelter, and aid to those needing a fresh start. Visit www.shelterhouse.on.ca/ for more information.

NorWest CHC

NorWest Community Health Centres provides high quality and integrated primary health care services, fosters community development and advocates to improve health and wellbeing for vulnerable people and communities. Visit <https://norwestchc.org/> for more information.

Media Resources

Contact Information

- **Inquiries related to HPP funding:**
The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board:
Carole Lem, Communications & Engagement Officer, media@tbdssab.ca
- **Inquiries related to specific projects:**
 - Elizabeth Fry: Lindsay Martin, Executive Director and Systemic Advocate, lindsaymartin@efsnwo.com, (807) 631-9065
 - Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services: Sarah McBain, Communications Manager, smcbain@oahssc.ca,
705-256-1177
 - Northern Linkage & St. Joseph's Care Group: Kim Callaghan, Director – Communications & Government Relations, SJCG, callaghk@tbh.net, 807-768-4455
 - Shelter House & NorWest CHC: Kaitlin Gaspar, Communications Lead, NorWest CHC, kgaspar@norwestchc.org, (807) 626-7875

Digital Assets

All digital assets can be downloaded here: <https://www.tbdssab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/TBDSSAB-HPPCapital-PressKit-DigitalAssets.zip>

Project Images



OAHS Huron Avenue project rendering, Image 1 of 2



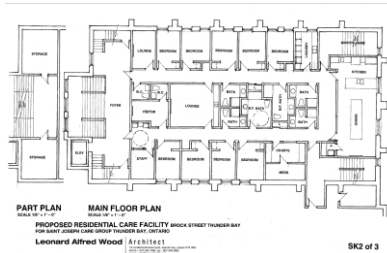
OAHs Huron Avenue project rendering, Image 2 of 2



Shelter House and NorWest CHC project floorplan



Northern Linkage and SJCG project – Brock Street exterior (fall 2023)



Northern Linkage and SJCG project – Brock Street preliminary drawings (fall 2023)

Media Event Photos



Image Description: Group photo from April 26, 2024 media event in Thunder Bay, with Minister Calandra (back right), MPP Holland, Mayor Boshcoff, representatives of TBDSSAB Board and administration, and all four funded initiatives.



Representatives from TBDSSAB and Shelter House (funding recipient) and NorWest CHC (health partner)



Representatives from TBDSSAB and Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services



Representatives from TBDSSAB and Northern Linkage (funding recipient) and St. Joseph's Care Group (health partner)



Representatives from TBDSSAB and Elizabeth Fry Society of Northwestern Ontario

Background

About TBDSSAB

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) supports people to improve their lives and become self-sufficient. We do this as the service system manager for vital, quality social services needed by individuals and families living in the District of Thunder Bay—including child care and early years, community housing, homelessness prevention programs—and through the delivery of Ontario Works.

Visit the TBDSSAB website for more information at www.tbdssab.ca.

About HPP

The Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) is a provincially funded program that supports Ontario's 47 municipal service managers to provide affordable housing and support services for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The objective of the program is to support service managers in preventing, addressing and reducing homelessness, including chronic homelessness.

Service managers receive funding from the province through the Homelessness Prevention Program to develop and deliver programs and supports to address homelessness that best meet local needs.

Eligible Uses of HPP Funds

Under HPP, service managers can create their own local programs under four broad service categories: Emergency Shelter Solutions, Supportive Housing, Community Outreach and Support Services, and Housing Assistance.¹

Service Managers may also use HPP funding towards capital expenditures to support the creation and renewal of supportive housing and emergency shelters. Service managers are required to complete an annual investment plan outlining how they plan to use their HPP allocations each year for ministry approval.

¹ Government of Ontario: Addressing homelessness, <https://www.ontario.ca/page/addressing-homelessness>