

**Ministry of Children,  
Community and Social  
Services**

Minister's Office  
7th Floor  
438 University Avenue  
Toronto ON M5G 2K8

Tel.: 416 325-5225  
Fax: 416 325-5240

**Ministère des Services à l'enfance  
et des Services sociaux  
et communautaires**

Bureau du ministre  
7<sup>e</sup> étage  
438, avenue University  
Toronto ON M5G 2K8

Tél. : 416 325-5225  
Télééc.:416 325-5240



March 18, 2026

Jim Vezina  
Chair

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board  
Board.Chair@tdssab.ca

Dear Mr. Vezina:

It was a pleasure meeting with you and your delegation at the 2026 Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference. I appreciated the opportunity to discuss the concerns you raised regarding Ontario Works recipients entering a Ministry of Health-funded Residential Treatment Facility for substance abuse treatment.

Our government recognizes that treating substance abuse is a critical step toward helping people to achieve stability in their lives, and we are committed to supporting them through their recovery. Ontario Works recipients staying in Residential Treatment Facilities remain eligible for support as long as they meet the financial and participation requirements.

This is a complex issue, which is why the Ministry values feedback from community partners who work directly with clients and can help to inform policy and program development. Janice Thibault, Program Supervisor, will connect with members of the team in Thunder Bay to see what can be addressed locally.

Thank you again for the productive discussion and for your ongoing leadership in your community.

Sincerely,

Lorne Coe

Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

- c: Colleen Hardie, Director, Social Assistance Service Delivery Branch, Toronto and West Regions  
Sharareh Kamali, Director, Social Assistance Service Delivery Branch, Central, East and North Regions