



For Immediate Release
June 20, 2018

Comprehensive partnership for Bail Bed Program in Kenora

With the goal of providing safe, supportive and managed housing for vulnerable individuals who require enhanced supervision in the community while working their way through the criminal justice system; the Kenora District Services board (KDSB), in partnership with Kenora Chiefs Advisory and Ne-Chee Friendship Centre, have formalized an agreement to develop a Bail Bed Program in Kenora. This agreement comes with full support from the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Housing which comes into effect on August 1, 2018.

In cases where vulnerable individuals are charged with minor offences, community-based solutions can be a productive alternative as compared to remaining in custody due to their vulnerable situations. A Bail Bed Program represents a unique and evidence-based approach to supervising and supporting low-risk people in the community while awaiting their criminal trials. There are two main components to the Bail Bed Program: Bail Supervision Programming and Housing with Supports Programming.

Ne-Chee Friendship Centre will be responsible for providing Bail Supervision Programming. "The overall priority is to provide surety for those going through the Bail Aftercare Program and to establish a holistic aftercare program for those within the residence," says Patti Fairfield, Executive Director of the Ne-Chee Friendship Centre.

The KDSB, in partnership with Kenora Chiefs Advisory, will be responsible for providing Housing with Supports Programming. "We are thrilled about creating this partnership with KDSB. It is an exciting opportunity as we are building in case management for these individuals," says Joe Barnes, Executive Director at Kenora Chiefs Advisory. He continues, "We will ensure the provision of appropriate supports in their time of need, to help them in their healing journey."

"Over 70% of all bail violations in Kenora each year are attributed to individuals failing to abstain from alcohol or drugs and breaching the rules of their residency. Without appropriated and culturally based supports, the system sets young men and women up to fail," says Henry Wall, Chief Administrative Officer at the KDSB. He adds, "This program will be designed to change these statistics. The program will be based on support and healing so that our communities can avoid so many young people having to spend a lifetime in the justice system."



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The KDSB will additionally provide property management resources; the Bed Bail Program will operate out of the former Northland Supportive Housing building on Matheson Street. Through this comprehensive partnership and a holistic approach to supervised support, Kenora's Bail Bed Program will allow vulnerable individuals to be connected with appropriate resources when they need it. By doing so, this support will increase the likelihood of success in achieving stability and healing while going through the justice system.

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