



For Immediate Release  
January 31, 2019

### **Emergency Shelter to open its doors February 1, 2019, at Knox location**

The Kenora District Services Board (KDSB), in partnership with the Ne-Chee Friendship Centre and Knox United Church, is pleased to share that the emergency shelter will open the doors at its Knox location on February 1, 2019, as a temporary shelter until the remainder of the facility is complete later in the month.

"It is not uncommon for there to be delays in major renovation projects. Given the age of the building, there were a number of unforeseen factors that needed to be addressed once renovations began and delays in acquiring materials for the installation of a new lift and plumbing," says Henry Wall, Chief Administrative Officer of the KDSB. "All organizations involved are dedicated to ensuring that this project is done with the highest standards in mind, in turn, providing a new building that is conducive to providing support for those who will access its services."

Initially, the shelter will be open from 8:00 pm – 8:00 am and will begin operating officially as a 24/7 Service Hub by March 1, 2019, allowing staff and community partners adequate time to adjust to the new building. Once fully operational, the Service Hub will provide a bed count that will allow for a 46 person capacity on the main floor and four transitional units on the second floor. Breakfast, lunch and supper will be provided daily. These meals will be open to anyone needing one and will not be limited to those using the shelter portion of the Hub.

The Ne-Chee Friendship Centre will provide supportive programming and services and will be phasing in operations throughout February. "The new 24/7 Service Hub will come to fruition very soon. It has been a long road to get to this point, but the important piece is that we are almost there. I cannot express in words how truly excited I am for the patrons who will be accessing it and what this means for them. The Ne-Chee Friendship Centre is looking forward to providing the much-needed wrap-around services along with community partners at the new location," says Patti Fairfield, Executive Director of the Ne-Chee Friendship Centre.

The Service Hub will allow the community to provide a place that goes above simply providing shelter. The KDSB and the Ne-Chee Friendship Centre would like to thank the Northwestern Health Unit for providing a space for the temporary shelter; community partners and the City of Kenora for their support in this project; and, the Nelson Architecture team and Kenon Builders for their hard work and dedication in making the new Service Hub become a reality.



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Knox United Church offers its thanks to First Baptist Church; Gillons Insurance; First Presbyterian Church; and, St. Alban's Cathedral for generously opening their doors to our staff and its many groups over the past six months. The congregation is also grateful for the ongoing work of the Fellowship Centre and many other community organizations who have continued to provide meals seven days a week, as well as the careful work of Kenon builders and the attentiveness of the KDSB.

Patrons of the Service Hub and the community are invited to attend the Hubs grand opening on March 15, 2019, where the Service Hub will receive its official title through a naming ceremony. Details will be shared shortly. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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