

For Immediate Release
May 5, 2020

District of Kenora selected for Reaching Home Designated Community Expansion

The Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) is pleased to formally announce that the District of Kenora is one of the six new Designated Community expansion approved for the Canada-wide Reaching Home Program. The news of the District's successful application was received directly from the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. The District of Kenora was shortlisted with 15 other applicants and asked to submit a full proposal for further consideration in Fall 2019.

Administered by the Government of Canada, Reaching Home is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness. It will provide direct funding to Designated Communities as well as to Indigenous and rural and remote communities across Canada to support their efforts in addressing local needs and develop local solutions to homelessness. Through the Designated Community expansion, the opportunity existed to apply as a District; historically, only urban communities with a population of 30,000 or greater could apply.

The Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) will act as the Community Entity.

"I want to sincerely thank Minister Hussen and his Ministry for approving our application under the Reaching Home Program," says Henry Wall, Chief Administrative Officer of the KDSB. He continues, "I want to also thank Minister Hussen along with the United Way Simcoe Muskoka, which will be providing funding supports through Reaching Home's Rural and Remote Communities funding stream to two amazing organizations in our District; Women's Shelter, Saakaate House Inc. in Kenora in the amount of \$85,810 from 2020-2021 and the Red Lake Area Emergency Shelter in amount of \$144,099 from 2020-2021."

Reaching Home will help ensure that people who are most in need, receive the appropriate support that they deserve, particularly in this time of need with the COVID-19 Pandemic. The KDSB has been approved for \$1.3 million from 2020-2024.

"The KDSB will work with our Municipal, Métis and First Nation leaders across the District to establish a framework to work together and to deliver community plans with clear outcomes that support local needs and priorities to end homelessness in the District," says Barry Baltessen, Board Chair of the KDSB.

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The KDSB will work in partnership with the many homelessness prevention agencies in the District of Kenora to develop a District-wide advisory board to support our communities outlined projects.

For more information on the Reaching Home Program, visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness.html>.

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