

For Immediate Release  
December 21, 2020

### **Board of Directors approve KDSB's 2021 operating budget**

The Board of Directors of the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) approved KDSB's 2021 operating budget of \$68,134,080 million during its regular Board meeting held on Thursday, December 17, 2020. The overall budget reflects a 2.04% decrease in the total local share to Unincorporated Territories and Municipalities over 2020.

"As a Board, we feel assured that the 2021 operating budget demonstrates that KDSB will not only maintain but enhance and expand service levels, all while demonstrating cost efficiencies for Municipalities. The KDSB will be undertaking many new assets and programming during a particularly challenging time as we see dynamically changing priorities. The Board was presented with a well thought out budget that considered current global issues and planned for sustainability and viability for the future," says Barry Baltessen, KDSB Board Chair.

"This year more than ever due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we acknowledge that 2021 will be a challenging year for all of our Municipalities. As an organization, we worked diligently to ensure that we are not only maintaining the level of services needed to address the complex challenges that our region faces, but to also put the KDSB in a proactive position to expand and offer more, all while making certain that Municipalities would not be affected," says Henry Wall, Chief Administrative Officer of the KDSB.

Highlights of KDSB's 2021 budget include:

- Early Learning and Care: Stabilize current and develop additional child care spaces to meet community needs;
- KDSB Northwest EMS: Development of new and expansion of EMS services and land ambulance bases;
- Housing and Homelessness: Enhancement of emergency shelter operations throughout the District, and the implementation of KDSB's updated Ten Year Housing and Homelessness Plan;
- Infrastructure: Oversee final planning and construction on:
  - New Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing in Sioux Lookout and Dryden
  - 54-unit Seniors Housing Development in Kenora, and 40-unit Seniors Housing Development in Dryden
  - New EMS base in Pickle Lake and EMS Headquarters in Dryden
- Continue to invest \$130,000 to support local child poverty reduction programs;
- Enhancement of service levels while keeping the Net Local Share levy impact viable.

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The KDSB publishes its annual budget report to help increase a local understanding of proposed initiatives for the outlined year, and residents' knowledge of where Municipal tax dollars are utilized. KDSB's detailed 2021 budget is available at <http://www.kdsb.on.ca/finance.html>.

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