

For Immediate Release
January 13, 2020

Board of Directors approve KDSB's 2020 operating budget

The Board of Directors of the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) approved KDSB's 2020 operating budget of \$60.3 million during its regular Board meeting held on Thursday, December 12, 2019. The overall budget reflects a 0.28% increase to the local share over the 2019 budget.

"As a Board, we feel confident that the 2020 operating budget allows the KDSB to maintain and enhance service levels for individuals and families and positions us well to be able to support the changing needs of our communities," says Barry Baltessen, KDSB Board Chair.

Highlights of KDSB's 2020 budget include:

- Continuing to invest in local child poverty reduction programs;
- Investing \$24 million over the next 10 years in improving and modernizing existing housing;
- Leveraging strategic partnerships to develop supported Affordable Housing units;
- Working collaboratively with Indigenous partners to increase community-based culturally appropriate programming;
- The increase of KDSB's leadership role as Service System Manager for all Emergency Shelter programs, Housing, Child Care, Social Assistance and Emergency Medical Services/Land Ambulance;
- As of January 1, 2020, the KDSB transitioned to a direct delivery model for Child Care programming in Dryden, ON.

"The 2020 budget was a challenging undertaking as the KDSB prepares for significant projects that will help address many social challenges that the District faces," says Henry Wall, Chief Administrative Officer of the KDSB. He continues, "The 2020 budget ensures the continued delivery of high-quality core services and also allows for investments in new programs and initiatives to support those in need in our communities. I want to extend my sincere thanks to the KDSB staff and Board of Directors for the respectful discussions and input that took place around this year's operating budget."

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 spent. KDSB's detailed 2020 budget is available at <http://www.kdsb.on.ca/finance.html>.

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