



For Immediate Release
July 30, 2020

CMHA Kenora set to become operating service provider for Kenora's Emergency Shelter Aug. 1

The Kenora District Services Board (KDSB), in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Kenora Branch, is reminding the community that CMHA Kenora will officially take over as operating service provider of Kenora's Emergency Shelter as of Aug. 1.

The transition of operations to CMHA Kenora began July 1, with no interruption in services of any kind. CMHA Kenora has already been working on updating policies and procedures to ensure the safety of patrons, staff and our community.

Further enhancements to the services located at the shelter will occur within the next few months once operations have been established. Alongside KDSB and community partners, CMHA Kenora aims to develop a hub model at the site to connect individuals with wraparound services, including primary care, case management, supportive and affordable housing and social programs.

CMHA Kenora brings comprehensive experience in supporting individuals with mental health and addictions challenges through the promotion of inclusion, working collaboratively with community service providers and using evidence-based practices. CMHA Kenora's on-site staff will ensure those who are most vulnerable and struggling with a mental illness or addictions issue have access to appropriate supports and services.

"The seamlessness of this transition of operations facilitated by the KDSB has reassured us at CMHA Kenora that we're well-equipped to support the needs of homeless individuals in our community," says Sara Dias, Executive Director of CMHA Kenora. "We look forward to continuing the great work that was started by the Ne-Chee Friendship Centre and helping individuals connect with community services that will allow them to live their best lives."

"These changes at the Kenora Emergency Shelter complement the KDSB's overall plan to address homelessness throughout the entire district, which includes a shelter development in the City of Dryden and a new shelter development in Sioux Lookout. This has been a great first step," says Henry Wall, Chief Administrative Officer of the Kenora District Services Board. "I want to thank the Ne-Chee Friendship Centre for their hard work, and we look forward to a continued partnership in our collective goal to end homelessness."



Fast facts:

- The Kenora Emergency Shelter has undergone a series of upgrades to ensure the safety of service users, staff and neighbours, including enhanced security and surveillance, an improved intake process and a renovated interior to promote better client flow and interaction.
- The Kenora Emergency Shelter provides overnight accommodation from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily and is found next door to Knox United Church, 430 Second St. South.
- The Kenora Emergency Shelter is a 44-bed facility that provided more than 8,800 nightly stays in 2019.

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