



For Immediate Release
June 18, 2020

CMHA Kenora selected as new service provider for Kenora's Emergency Shelter

The Kenora District Services Board (KDSB), in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Kenora Branch, would like to advise the community that CMHA Kenora will assume the role as operating service provider of Kenora's Emergency Shelter.

The KDSB, in consultation with its Board of Directors, feels that CMHA Kenora demonstrates the fundamental skills to best support the individuals who access the shelter.

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.

"The strength of our organization is providing client-centred care to individuals and helping them connect with wraparound services in the community to help them live their best lives," says Sara Dias, Executive Director of CMHA Kenora. "At this time, we would also like to thank the Ne-Chee Friendship Centre for its dedication to supporting vulnerable individuals who use the Emergency Shelter and we will continue the great work they started."

CMHA Kenora, in partnership with KDSB and community partners, aims to develop a hub model at the site to connect individuals with primary care, case management, supportive and affordable housing and social programs such as Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program.

CMHA Kenora was embedded at the Emergency Shelter from Jan. 1 to March 31 to examine the feasibility of the support it could provide. In that three-month span, CMHA Kenora provided help to 40 people, including helping 15 individuals find supportive housing and four people find rental housing.

"We look forward to working in partnership with CMHA Kenora in its new role," says Henry Wall, Chief Administrative Officer of the Kenora District Services Board. He continues, "This is a vital opportunity to have specialized staff on-site to ensure that those who are most vulnerable and struggling with a mental illness or addictions issue have access to appropriate supports and services."

The Ne-Chee Friendship Centre will continue operating as the service provider for the Emergency Shelter until June 30. From July 1 to July 31, KDSB and CMHA Kenora will work in partnership to transition service provider operations. CMHA Kenora will step into its role as Kenora's Emergency Shelter service provider on Aug. 1.



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.
- The Kenora Emergency Shelter is a 44-bed facility that provided more than 8,800 nightly stays in 2019.

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