



For Immediate Release
October 22, 2020

KDSB to assume responsibility of Early Years and Child Care programming offered by the Municipality of Red Lake

At a special Municipality of Red Lake council meeting, the Municipality of Red Lake approved and finalized the transfer of the operation of its current Early Years and Child Care programming and services to the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB). The transfer is a result of the Municipality of Red Lake and the KDSB looking to realign the delivery of Early Years and Child Care programs to enhance service levels, mitigate financial and funding impacts and leverage efficiencies. This transfer will allow the KDSB to strengthen its connection to the programs and services in Red Lake and its surrounding communities.

It is expected that the KDSB will assume the operation of three early learning centre locations: Red Lake Early Learning Centre, St. John's Early Learning Centre, and Balmertown Early Learning Centre and Early ON Programs on January 1, 2021. Through the transfer, there will be no impacts to the Municipality of Red Lake's current staff. There will be a brief interruption in services for children and their families from January 4-8, 2021, to orientate and onboard the employees.

"As a municipality, we are confident that the transition will allow children and their families to continue receiving quality Child Care programming. We appreciate the outstanding service our Child Care staff and their continued role in enriching the lives of children in our community," says Mark Vermette, Chief Administrative Officer of the Municipality of Red Lake.

"This transfer of service and programming will ensure that the Early Years and Child Care programs in Red Lake remain affordable, accessible and sustainable into the future. There will be no visible changes to the services children and families are accustomed to and that KDSB's Child Care operating model will focus on enhancing the programs for the community of Red Lake. We look forward to welcoming the Child Care staff to KDSB," says Henry Wall, Chief Administrative Officer of the KDSB.

The KDSB and the Municipality of Red Lake will be working closely for the remainder of 2020 to ensure a smooth and seamless transition of operation and will make communication with families, Child Care program employees, stakeholders and the community a priority as both parties move forward.

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