



## **PRESS RELEASE**

On Tuesday, January 15, 2013, the KDSB had the opportunity to celebrate two significant events at the new Kenora Ambulance Base.

Firstly, there was an awards presentation to KDSB Emergency Medical Service paramedic recipients of the Governor General Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal. The 2012 KDSB EMS recipients were Dave Williams and Keith Hunt from Sioux Lookout; Ursula DeKeyser from Ear Falls; and Bob Stevenson, Brian Birch and Wade Gagnon from Kenora.

First responders are the public's first line of defense in times of an emergency. Our paramedics undertake this important societal role under difficult, varied and sometimes dangerous circumstances.

The Governor General Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Award was created in 1994 by then Governor General, His Honor Romeo LeBlanc. The award is more than a long service award, it is an exemplary service award presented to those eligible members of the pre-hospital emergency medical services community who have served at least 20 years in a meritorious manner, characterized by the highest standards of good conduct, industriousness and efficiency. To qualify, at least ten years of a recipient's service must have been at the street level involving potential risk to the individual. Since the awards inception, there have been approximately 1,100 Ontario recipients of the award.

In 2012, there were 115 individual paramedics who joined the exclusive Governor General EMS Exemplary Service fraternity. The KDSB Board of Directors is extremely proud to have the six 2012 KDSB paramedic recipients among its team.

The second part of the day's celebration was the grand opening of the Kenora Ambulance Base. The base has been occupied since September 2012. The event was provide an opportunity for the general public to view the new base and for the Board of Directors to congratulate and thank the many people, organizations and companies that contributed to this wonderful facility.

Any questions about the day can be directed to Andrew Tickner, Director of EMS at the KDSB Dryden Office.

Phil Vinet, Chair

Dan McNeill, CAO