



This fall all of us in Finance along with Bri from HR attended OMERS training workshops.

We learned a lot about administering the program as well as all the resources available to our employees!



Having a tough day and wanting to know when you can retire and how much you'll collect?? [www.myOMERS.ca](http://www.myOMERS.ca) allows you to access your personal information...

- Create a Retirement Income Estimator
- See how much extra you can contribute through AVCs (Additional Voluntary Contributions)
- Buy back past service
- Sign up for E-Subscription and receive your Pension Reports and AVC Statements online



Please visit [www.omers.ca](http://www.omers.ca) and check out all the information available to members...

**Remember it's never too early to "Be Pensions Savvy."**

OMERS information sessions are held almost every year (normally in the fall) and they are more than willing to come and visit when we ask them to!

Please let Bri ([bpollock@kdsb.on.ca](mailto:bpollock@kdsb.on.ca)) know if you are interested or watch your email for the details of the next session being offered in our area!

**Finance would like to welcome Nicole Ernewein!**

Contact Info: [nernewein@kdsb.on.ca](mailto:nernewein@kdsb.on.ca) 807-223-2100 ext 2329



Finance – by  
Nicole Ernewein



## Communities Benefit from Volunteers

**Debbie Carlson**

Did you know that the KDSB contributes to communities by providing helping hands as a part of an OW community placement? Volunteers from the Kenora Ontario Works Office performed 1019 hours of work this summer maintaining the Sioux Narrows Provincial Park, and 712 hours assisting the staff at the local soccer complex so area youth could play.



Time off!!! For the staff???

Fine if that's the way you want it **Santa!** I will give them the 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> off!! But someone is going have to account for this in the budget – Let me call Corrine.



CAO's Door – Decorated by  
Blaire Paterson

**Social Assistance Review Commission Report**  
**Brighter Prospects: Transforming Social Assistance in Ontario**  
**Dianne Apland – Director of Integrated Social Services**

In its 2008 Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Ontario government made a commitment to review social assistance comprising Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program.

Frances Lankin and Munir Sheikh presented their final report to the Minister of Community and Social Services on Wednesday, October 24. This report describes a more effective and more accountable system which removes barriers and increases opportunities for people to work, recognizing that employment is a key route to escaping poverty.

The report contains 108 recommendations, with emphasis on some priority steps that can be taken now. This summary is not inclusive of everything in the report, but highlights some of the major recommendations that may impact the KDSB

- Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program would be replaced by one program, focused on ability not on disability. The new program would be managed by Municipalities (meaning CMSMs and DSSABs) and First Nations because they have the necessary on-the-ground understanding of their communities. Integration of other human services such as child care and housing would be facilitated.
- Municipalities would continue to be responsible for employment services for social assistance recipients, and would also become full partners with the Province in managing and planning employment services in their communities. Where interest and capacity exists, municipalities would be given the opportunity to deliver Employment. Ontario full suite of services. Intensive case management would be expanded to provide the services people need to access employment.
- Participation Agreements would be replaced by Employment Pathways
- Several recommendations regarding eligibility include:
  - Eliminating Living with Parent Rule
  - Moving Temporary Care to Ministry of Children and Youth
  - Changing definition of spouse from 3 months to one year in line with Income Tax Act
  - Make pursuit of child support voluntary and reduce income charge to 50% versus 100%
  - Increase asset levels
  - Replace OW/ODSP rent scales for Rent Geared to Income housing

The benefit structure would be greatly simplified, with an expectation that at least half of the rules and directives in the existing system would be eliminated. The approximately 30 special benefits in the current system would be streamlined and a new rate structure would be introduced, including a disability supplement and uniform supplements for families and sole support parents.

Children's benefits and extended health benefits would be removed from social assistance and be made available entirely outside the system. The report advocates for new benefits established to be available to all low income residents from a universal benefit perspective.

The report promotes a new standard of living called the "Basic Measure of Adequacy" derived from some of the same considerations as the "Market Basket Measure" and calls for an immediate increase for the single standard renter of \$100. Additionally it speaks of the unique challenges for Aboriginals and those living in Northern Ontario, acknowledging that there needs to be special consideration in the area of benefits, eligibility criteria and asset levels.

The report recognizes the special challenges facing First Nations regarding benefit levels and employment programming.

The report recommends the appointment of a Provincial Commissioner for Social Assistance to drive change and be the point of accountability for social assistance in Ontario.

Many of the recommendations put forth by NOSDA and northern DSSABs have been incorporated into the report. These recommendations expand the role of municipalities and advocate flexibility at the local level.





**2012 Fall CME**  
**Michelle Milanese**  
**NWEMS Training Coordinator**

This past month I have been on the road delivering training to our regions Paramedics. The weatherman cooperated fully and travel was safe. I was able to meet all the Paramedics in the region, put a face to their name, and visit at all the ambulance bases. The Kenora Ambulance Base is a huge improvement to what they had for so many years.

The 2012 Fall CME focus was on a new Airway Management Device called the KLT. This airway device will aid our Paramedics in ventilating VSA patients. It is an exciting time for us whenever we learn a new skill or adopt new equipment. The KLT Airway was very well received.

The Vehicle Database Software developed by Vincent Diep was also reviewed. It will track our vehicle expenses in an easy and efficient manner. This program should also benefit the Accounts Payable department.

Incident reporting for Paramedics has also changed. The new Incident Reporting System will make access and deliver of these reports easier and quicker.



ALS medication administration and CPAP delivery stations were set up for all medics to review and practice their skills.

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience as Training Coordinator for the NWEMS Paramedics, meeting new people and visiting all the bases. I would like to thank Dennis, Andrew and all the KDSB office staff for your warmth, friendliness, guidance and patience.



**Best Wishes to all this Holiday Season.**



**Ontario Works**  
**Resource Rooms**  
**Darcie Penner**

The KDSB Ontario Works resource rooms are available for clients to use to assist them in locating employment, and are located in the KDSB Kenora, Dryden and Sioux Lookout offices. Clients have access to our computers, printers, photocopier and fax machine to update their resumes, create cover letters and apply for jobs. They can job search online or view our updated job boards, and are able to speak to a case manager for other job searching resources. Ontario Works applicants are also welcome to use the computers to apply online for social assistance.



**2013 Budget**  
**Corrine Owen – Director of Finance**

At their regular Board Meeting on Thursday, December 13 the Board of Directors recommended adoption of a 2013 Budget with a regional property tax levy increases of 1.1% (\$171,086). This budget reflects various investments in the Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives through initiatives such as:

- Integration (commitment to training of existing staff)
- Marketing & Communication (commitment to organization wide meetings and continued work of the Communication Committee)
- Partnerships (commitment to memberships with advocacy agencies)
- Organization Continuity (commitment to Housing and EMS renewal plans)
- Information Management (commitment to evaluate current software and upgrade where required)

The 2013 Budget presented allows our organization to continue to provide high levels of quality service to those individuals within our district. We are able to invest in these services with minimum hardship on the local tax payer. We were able to accomplish this despite being in an economic era where our Provincial Funding is expected to decrease, costs for employment benefits are increasing, utility payments are on the rise and there is an expectation of a 1.9% cost of living increase.

As we continue towards an ever changing future, we look to our most valuable resource, the employees of KDSB, and say thank you. Thank you for your ideas, thank you for your support and thank you for your dedication to the individuals and families we help.