



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 23, 2020**

## **Day Programming Provides Warmth and Connects Vulnerable People to Supports**

*North Bay, ON* – Two new daytime programs, in addition to overnight shelter services, provide 24 hour out of the cold service to the vulnerable population in Nipissing District.

Weekend programs are provided by the North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre (NBIFC) at its location at 980 Cassells Street on weekends from 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM. From Monday to Friday, daytime programming is available at 590 Chippewa Street starting today through Nipissing Mental Health Housing and Supports Services (NMHHSS), the operator of the overnight shelter located at the same site. Day programming there is available during the day from 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM with overnight services at the shelter from 8:30 PM to 8:30 AM. Meals are being provided through the Gathering Place and Outreach and Support workers are on hand to help connect people with services and supports in the community.

Funding for these services is being provided through provincial Social Services Relief Funding (SSRF)-Phase 2.

“These services close a gap for people and provide a warm place to go during the day, in addition to connecting people to the services they may need,” says DNSSAB Chair, Mark King.

“We are working to offer more services through the day program such as a nursing clinic in partnership with the AIDS Committee that would make it easier for clients to access care. We thank our staff and community partners for their continued dedication and commitment toward these efforts,” says Mohamed Badsha, NMHHSS acting CEO.

“The NBIFC is also providing cultural services, including smudging and elders are available for teachings,” adds Kathy Fortin, Executive Director of NBIFC.

The day programs are scheduled to run until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.