District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board

Conseil d'administration des services sociaux du district de Nipissing

# COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

**Healthy, Sustainable Communities**

**Date:** **Wednesday, April 27, 2022**

**Time:** **12:00 PM**

**Location:** **By video conference while pandemic protocols are in place**

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85068712508?pwd=aVJUL01MdG53Q2JlTDd4bDNna0pQQT09

Meeting ID: 850 6871 2508
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**Members:  Councillor Dan Roveda (Chair)**, Councillor Dave Mendicino (Vice Chair), Mayor Dean Backer, Councillor Mac Bain, Mayor Jane Dumas, Councillor Terry Kelly, Councillor Mark King Councillor Chris Mayne, , Mayor Dan O'Mara, Councillor Scott Robertson, Representative Amanda Smith, Councillor Bill Vrebosch.

| Item | Topic |
|------|-------|
| 1.0 | 1.1    Call to Order - Roll Call<br><br>1.2    Declaration of Conflict of Interest |
| 2.0 | **Opening remarks by the Chair** |

| Item | Topic |
|------|-------|
| **3.0** | **Approval of the Agenda for April 27, 2022**<br><br>**MOTION #CSC14-2022**<br>THAT the Community Services Committee accepts the Agenda as presented. |
| **4.0** | **4.1 DELEGATIONS – Sue Rinneard, Executive Director of Crisis Centre North Bay.** |
| **5.0** | **CONSENT AGENDA –** *CONSENT AGENDA – All items in the consent agenda are voted on collectively. The Chair will call out each item for consideration of discussion. Any item can be singled out for separate vote; then, only the remaining items will be voted on collectively.*<br><br>**MOTION: #CSC15-22**<br>THAT the Committee receives for information or approval, Consent Agenda items 5.1 to 5.3.<br><br>**5.1 SSE04-22 Understanding Systems: The 2021 Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty –** information on a summary of "Understanding Systems: The 2021 Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty.<br><br>**5.2 HS17-22 Service Manager Annual Information Return (SMAIR)**<br>THAT the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) receives for information report HS17-22 detailing the 2021 Service Manager Annual Information Return (SMAIR) as submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH).<br><br>**5.3 HS19-22 Ontario Affordability Task Force Report –** information on details of the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force report highlighting expert recommendations for additional measures to increase the supply of market housing to address the housing crisis, as well as AMO's response to the Task Force report and furthermore, that the report will be shared with District municipalities. |
| **6.0** | **MANAGERS REPORTS**<br>**6.1 CS04-22 Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Plan**<br><br>**MOTION: #CSC16-22**<br>THAT the District of Nipissing Social Services Administrative Board (DNSSAB) accepts Briefing Note CS04-22 for information and that the DNSSAB Board directs staff to develop of an expansion plan to address the early years and licensed child care needs in the district; and,<br>THAT the plan be brought to committee for consideration by October 2022. |

| Item | Topic |
|---|---|
| | **6.2 HS22-22 Coordinated Access Nipissing Update and Prioritization of Housing and Homelessness Resources**<br><br>**MOTION:  #CSC17-22**<br>THAT the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board receives report HS22-22 providing an update on Coordinated Access Nipissing and approves the Prioritization of Housing and Homelessness Resources as set out in the report. |
| | **6.3 Move in Camera**<br><br>**MOTION:  #CSC18-22**<br>THAT the Committee move in-camera at _____ to discuss information supplied in confidence and a matter of negotiation. |
| | **6.4 Adjourn in Camera**<br><br>**MOTION:  #CSC19-22**<br>THAT the Committee adjourn in-camera at _____. |
| | **6.5 Approve in Camera**<br><br>**MOTION:  #CSC20-22**<br>THAT the Committee approves the direction/action agreed to in the in-camera session. |
| 7.0 | **OTHER BUSINESS** |
| 8.0 | **NEXT MEETING DATE**<br>Wednesday, June 22, 2022 |
| 9.0 | **ADJOURNMENT**<br>**MOTION:  #CSC21-22**<br>*Resolved* THAT the Community Services Committee meeting be adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_ PM. |

# District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board / Conseil d'administration des services sociaux du district de Nipissing

# BRIEFING NOTE    SSE04-22

## ☒ For Information or   ☐ For Approval

**Date:**          April 27, 2022

**Purpose**:       **Understanding Systems: The 2021 Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty**

**Prepared by:**    Michelle Glabb, Director of Employment and Social Services

**Reviewed by:**    Justin Avery, Manager of Finance

**Approved by:**    Catherine Matheson, Chief Administrative Officer

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*Alignment with Strategic Plan: Healthy, Sustainable Communities*

☒ **Maximize Impact**   ☒ **Remove Barriers**    ☒ **Seamless Access**    ☐ **Learn & Grow**

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Briefing Note SSE04-22 provides a summary of "*Understanding Systems: The 2021 Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty*.

## BACKGROUND:

In 2018, the Government of Canada made a historic commitment to reducing poverty through the release of Opportunity for All – Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy which included the creation of Canada's National Advisory Council on Poverty. [1]

Building on the first report and recommendations, in December 2021, the Government released its second comprehensive report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty entitled "*Understanding Systems: The 2021 Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty.* [2] In this report, the following is presented:

- An update on government progress – both progress towards meeting the overall poverty reduction targets and progress toward implementing the recommendations from the first report;
- A description that highlights the systemic nature of poverty using both data and the input  received from the Council's national engagement sessions;

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[1] Government of Canada, "*Opportunity for All – Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy*", https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/poverty-reduction/reports/strategy.html
[2] Government of Canada, "*The 2021 Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty*", https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/poverty-reduction/national-advisory-council/reports/2021-annual.html

1

- Examines the impact of COVID-19 on the most marginalized populations, and
- Provides recommendations to develop a societal reset - to develop a more equal, healthy, purposeful, just, dignified, caring and resilient society post COVID-19.[3]

## HOW POVERTY IS MEASURED

The Poverty Reduction Act was passed in June 2019. This Act entrenched Canada's Official Poverty Line, based on the Market Basket Measure (MBM), into law. The MBM is the cost of a basket of goods and services that individuals and families require to meet their basic needs and achieve a modest standard of living. In "*Understanding Systems*" it is explained how a person's income level is often used as the proxy measure to determine individual poverty. However, it is noted that a person's income level alone does not fully address the many dimensions of poverty.

## POVERTY RATES IN CANADA

According to Canada's Official Poverty Line, the poverty rate in Canada fell from 14.5% in 2015 to 10.1% in 2019. This means that 3.7 million Canadians, or 1 in 10, were living in poverty in 2019.[4] When considering this information, it is important to understand who is living in poverty. "*Understanding Systems*" provides a thorough analysis on this topic and explains what factors make people more vulnerable to poverty. See excerpt below.

"Factors such as sex, age, gender identity, family composition, immigration status, disabilities, institutionalization, exposure to violence, racism, anti-Black racism, ableism, discrimination, homophobia, transphobia and location all play a role. Because of colonialism (past and present), trauma, racism and discrimination, Indigenous people are at high risk of living in poverty. Marginalized groups face economic barriers, racism and discrimination and are more likely to live in poverty". [5]

While this reduction in the poverty rate is positive, the National Advisory Council highlights that when reviewing this information it is important to note that:

- The most recently available data comes from the 2019 Canadian Income Survey (CIS). This means that the data does not reflect the impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations.
- The overall number conceals some of the deep inequities that exist for low-income Canadians. Certain populations, including Black Canadians, racialized Canadians, immigrants, refugees, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQ individuals, all face higher rates of poverty;
- Poverty indicators such as food insecurity, unmet housing needs and the average poverty gap stayed the same or worsened.

[3] Government of Canada, "*The 2021 Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty*", Chapter 1 – Introduction, https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/poverty-reduction/national-advisory-council/reports/2021-annual.html

[4] Government of Canada, "*The 2021 Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty*", Chapter 2 – Poverty in Canada and Update on Progress, https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/poverty-reduction/national-advisory-council/reports/2021-annual.html

[5] Government of Canada, "*The 2021 Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty*", Chapter 2 – Poverty in Canada and Update on Progress, https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/poverty-reduction/national-advisory-council/reports/2021-annual.html

2

Table 1 below illustrates the poverty rate reduction by province for 2015 and 2019.[6]

Table 1

| | 2015 | 2019 | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| CANADA | 14.5% | 10.1% | 4.4% |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 13.1% | 10.7% | 2.4% |
| New Brunswick | 16.1% | 9.4% | 6.7% |
| Saskatchewan | 12.7% | 12.4% | 0.3% |
| Prince Edward Island | 14.8% | 10.9% | 3.9% |
| Quebec | 13.7% | 8.7% | 5.0% |
| Alberta | 10% | 8.2% | 1.8% |
| Nova Scotia | 17% | 12.1% | 4.9% |
| Ontario | 15.1% | 10.9% | 4.2% |
| British Columbia | 17.8% | 10.8% | 7.0% |
| Manitoba | 14% | 11.4% | 2.6% |

As shown above, all Provinces have experienced a decrease in the poverty rate when comparing 2015 to 2019. However, the depth of the decreases varies by Province ranging from a high of 7% to a low of 0.3%. In "*Understanding Systems*", it is explained that because the country is diverse, people across Canada experience poverty differently. Further, provinces and territories have different economic and demographic realities as well as differing approaches to their social programs.

**ADDRESSING THE SYSTEMIC NATURE OF POVERTY**
Through the development of "*Understanding Systems*", the National Advisory Council engaged more than 600 people impacted by the deficiencies in Canada's social safety nets to gain a better understanding on what needs to change to make the system more effective. The following represents some of what they heard:

- Living in poverty is dehumanizing and supports and services can strip people of their dignity;
- Poverty is created by the systems, programs and inadequate benefits;
- Some programs and benefits designed to help people instead cause trauma;
- Many of the systems create and perpetuate inequity and injustice;
- There are people that have a vested interest in keeping people in poverty;
- Colonialism, racism and discrimination are driving high poverty rates and challenges in the labour market;
- Systems designed to help are complex, do not work together and are often punitive and difficult to navigate;
- Complex rules force people to make impossible and counter-intuitive decisions;
- Rules seem to be developed for ease or efficiency of the system, rather than for the people they are intended to serve;
- Short term contracts and part time work with no benefits are part of the problem;
- People can be working full time and still live below the poverty line.

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[6] Government of Canada, "*The 2021 Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty*", Chapter 2 – Poverty in Canada and Update on Progress, https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/poverty-reduction/national-advisory-council/reports/2021-annual.html

3

In order to address these challenges the National Advisory Council identifies the following recommendations/priorities along with defined action items all of which are aimed at reducing inequity and ensuring that everyone has the resources needed to thrive:

- Indigenous prosperity through truth, reconciliation and renewed relationships;
- Building Equity through programs, supports and benefits;
- Dignity through enhanced access and improved service design and provision;
- Develop robust systems and structures focused on early intervention and poverty prevention;
- Employment income and income support.

**IMPACT OF COVID-19**

It has been well documented that the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on racialized and marginalized people with poverty serving to further exacerbate the negative impacts of COVID–19. "*Understanding Systems*" explains how the pandemic served to worsen and/or expose the following:

- Inadequacies in existing benefits and sick leave for many low-income workers
- Questions related to why federal benefits were more generous than what claimants received on EI, provincial or territorial social assistance programs and disability benefits;
- Challenges in the caring economy;
- Inadequacies in long-term care homes;
- Challenges in accessing affordable housing along with capacity issues throughout the housing spectrum;
- Continued structural and systemic inequities and barriers to health and social services;
- Negative impacts to those experiencing family violence;
- Increasing concern over the long-term mental health impacts on children, as well as how this may affect their psychological development;
- Job loss due to public health measures and business closures;
- Concerns over how the move to a digital delivery model for education, healthcare and other supports and programs left many people behind, increasing isolation and mental health challenges;
- Increase in mortality.

**POVERTY AND HEALTH INEQUITY**

In "*Understanding Systems",* it is noted that throughout the Council's engagement sessions, they heard about the links between poverty and health. They state how the "inequalities in health outcomes (such as, life expectancy and the likelihood of contracting chronic and infectious diseases) have been well documented both in Canada and around the world". [7] They also note that "the structural determinants of health (such as, social and economic policies, governance structures and societal values and norms) drive health inequities". [8]

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[7] Government of Canada, "*The 2021 Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty*", Chapter 3 – Understanding the Impact of COVID-19, https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/poverty-reduction/national-advisory-council/reports/2021-annual.html

[8] Government of Canada, "*The 2021 Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty*", Chapter 3 – Understanding the Impact of COVID-19, https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/poverty-reduction/national-advisory-council/reports/2021-annual.html

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**PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION**
During the Council's engagement sessions, stakeholders spoke about the need to make investments in people, systems, programs and benefits.  Many stressed that investments in social services and early interventions have exponential impacts and are more cost-effective. This includes the need for upstream investments that support people before a crisis, or before falling into poverty, such as:

- Investing in child care, education, housing and food security—investments made in social services can reduce the need to spend on health care, the criminal justice system and emergency supports such as shelters;
- Instituting a national pharmacare program;
- Ensuring adequate benefits for children and youth in care to make sure that poverty is not replicated in the child welfare system—there is a responsibility to ensure that children who are removed from their homes and placed in foster care are provided with resources to ensure that they are not living in poverty while in care, nor exiting into poverty;
- Providing transition supports for people who are leaving institutions, and
- Focusing on providing long-term funding to service providers to allow them to plan for the long term, to collaborate and to innovate.

**CURRENT STATUS/STEPS TAKEN TO DATE:**
While understanding poverty at the national and provincial level is important, understanding it within a local context is essential to making informed policy decisions that impact vulnerable populations.  As a follow up to this Briefing Note, Social Services in partnership with the Manager of Planning and Analytics will be bringing a series of reports back to the Board that will provide local demographic information that is related to poverty.

**CONCLUSION:**
In one of the Council's engagement sessions it was stressed by participants that "if we want to address poverty, the government needs to address the systemic problems that create and sustain poverty". [9] "Poverty is about untapped resources, opportunities and potential" however, while "potential is distributed evenly; opportunity is not". [10] While COVID-19 has devastated society in many ways, the Council notes that people, governments and organizations now have the opportunity to re-examine existing structures and can choose to do things differently by re-making and re-shaping systems.  It is clear that this will take time and a whole of society and government approach will be needed to achieve sustainable change.  Close attention will be required to monitor progress and the ongoing engagement of stakeholders and those with lived experience will continue to be required to ensure that Canada's poverty reduction strategy remains a priority.

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[9] Government of Canada, "*The 2021 Report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty*", Chapter 4 – What We Heard, https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/poverty-reduction/national-advisory-council/reports/2021-annual.html
[10]

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**BRIEFING NOTE   HS17-22**

☒ **For Information  or**   ☐ **For Approval**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date:** | April 27, 2022 |
| **Purpose**: | **Service Manager Annual Information Return (SMAIR)** |
| **Prepared by:** | Stacey Cyopeck, Director, Housing Programs |
| **Reviewed by:** | Justin Avery, Manager of Finance |
| **Approved by:** | Catherine Matheson, Chief Administrative Officer |

*Alignment with Strategic Plan: Healthy, Sustainable Communities*

☒ **Maximize Impact**   ☐ **Remove Barriers**   ☒**Seamless Access**   ☐ **Learn & Grow**

That the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) receives for information report HS17-22 detailing the 2021 Service Manager Annual Information Return (SMAIR) as submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH).
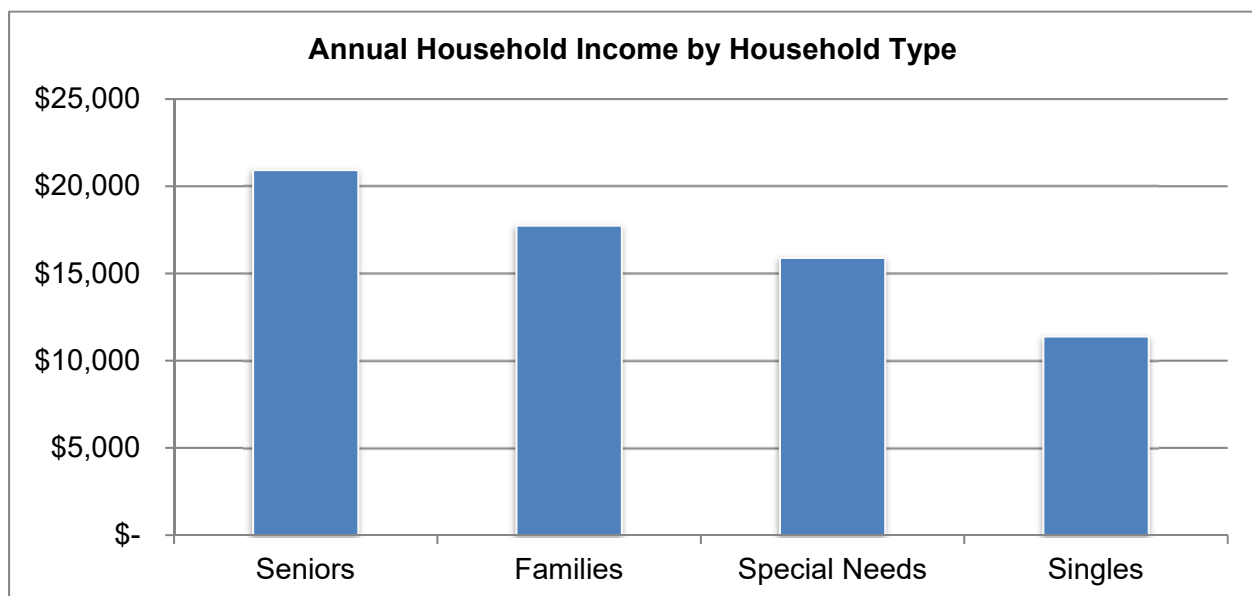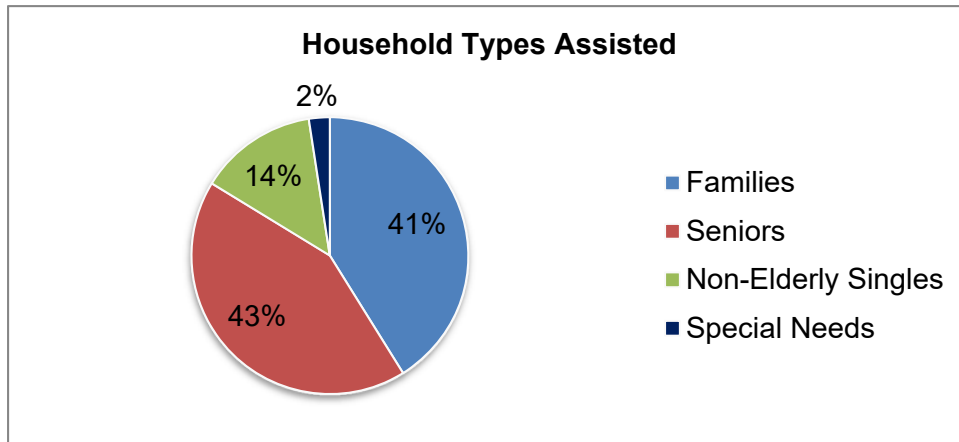
**BACKGROUND:**

- The Service Manager Annual Information Return (SMAIR) is a legislatively required report, which serves as an assessment of a Service Manager's compliance with the *Housing Services Act, 2011*, and is the primary reporting tool for social housing data utilized by the Province in its reporting to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).
- The SMAIR is a summary of selected financial, operating and statistical information from the suite of legacy social housing programs, centralized waiting list, and the Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program for the year ended December 31, 2021.

**CURRENT STATUS/STEPS TAKEN TO DATE:**

Beginning with funding, in the 2021 calendar year the legacy program funding totaled $10,689,083 representing a 13.6% reduction from 2020. The reduction is primarily attributed to the expiry of two projects under the Municipal Non-Profit program and one project under the Private Non-Profit program. The Commercial Rent Supplement program saw the largest year over year increase with a 14.9% growth. This aligns with the Board's commitment to meeting its Service Level Standards for subsidized housing.

1

With regard to households assisted, below is the breakdown of types and average income by household type:

**Household Types Assisted**



- Families — 41%
- Seniors — 43%
- Non-Elderly Singles — 14%
- Special Needs — 2%

**Annual Household Income by Household Type**



To continue, the tracking of Service Level Standards (SLS) is a key component of the SMAIR. DNSSAB is committed to meeting its legislatively mandated SLS as illustrated by the 2.8% year over year growth in households receiving RGI assistance and 8.8% growth in the number over high needs households receiving assistance. The 2021 increases are, in part, due to the increases in the Commercial Rent Supplement program and the Portable Housing Benefit program and the introduction of Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) Rent Supplements.

| | Prescribed SLS | 2021 SMAIR | 2020 SMAIR | Year Over Year Growth | Variance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Households Receiving RGI | 1522 | 1309 | 1273 | 2.8% | 213 |
| High Needs Households | 807 | 571 | 525 | 8.8% | 236 |

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In terms of the Centralized Waiting List for social housing, DNSSAB saw a year over year increase of 8.1% rising from 891 households on the waiting list in 2020 to 963 households in 2021. The increase can be attributed to the rise in market rental accommodations and the continued impact of COVID-19 on household finances.

Finally, regarding the Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program, DNSSAB had a variance of $43,682 largely due to the Regular funding stream. This program is reconciled on a three-year cycle and will balance out with previous year expenditures. The program also allows for a carry-over amount to the new reporting cycle. This may be an option should there be an overall underspend in the three-year cycle.

| Program Component | 2021 SMAIR | Program Targets | Variance |
|---|---|---|---|
| Regular | $173,305 | $218,005 | $44,700 |
| MCSS | $88,081 | $84,404 | ($3,677) |
| MOHLTC | $39,544 | $42,203 | $2,659 |
| TOTAL | $300,930 | $344,612 | $43,682 |

**RISK IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION:**

Once all SMAIR data has been received and compiled by the Province, a selected external audit firm will choose and visit a representative sample of Service Managers to verify the information reported on the SMAIR. It is, therefore, essential that the SMAIR data is collected and stored appropriately while maintaining statistical accuracy and that the final report is thoroughly reviewed.

**CONCLUSION:**

In summary, the SMAIR is a valuable tool to continuously monitor the legacy social housing programs, centralized waiting list, and Rent Supplement programs to ensure that DNSSAB is meeting its obligations set out in the *Housing Services Act, 2011*. In 2021, DNSSAB made strides in its Service Level Standards with approximately a 3% growth over 2020. The DNSSAB will need to continue to follow its Service Level Standards Action Plan to ensure that yearly SLS increases align with or exceed the plan.

**District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board** / **Conseil d'administration des servicessociaux du district de Nipissing**

**BRIEFING NOTE    HS19-22**

☒ **For Information  or  ☐ For Approval**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date:** | April 27, 2022 |
| **Purpose**: | **Ontario Affordability Task Force Report** |
| **Prepared by:** | Stacey Cyopeck, Director, Housing Services |
| **Reviewed by:** | Justin Avery, Manager of Finance |
| **Approved by:** | Catherine Matheson, Chief Administrative Officer |

*Alignment with Strategic Plan: Healthy, Sustainable Communities*

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Report HS19-22 provides details of the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force report highlighting expert recommendations for additional measures to increase the supply of market housing to address the housing crisis, as well as AMO's response to the Task Force report and furthermore, that the report will be shared with District municipalities.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The Housing Affordability Task Force is part of Ontario's ongoing three-part consultation with industry, municipalities, and the public to help identify and implement solutions to address the housing supply crisis.
- The Task Force report published on February 8th, 2022, sets out recommendations that would set bold goals and clear direction for the province to increase density, remove exclusionary rules that prevent housing growth, prevent abuse of the appeals process, and ensure municipalities are treated as partners in this process by incentivizing success.

**CURRENT STATUS/STEPS TAKEN TO DATE:**

The Task Force report includes five sections and a total of 55 recommendations. Below are highlights from the report:

1. Focus on getting more homes built
    a. Set a goal of building 1.5 million new homes in ten years.
2. Making land available to build

      a. Stop using exclusionary zoning that restricts more housing.

      b. Align investments in roads and transit with growth.

      c. Start saying "yes in my backyard".

3. Reduce red tape to build faster and reduce costs

      a. Adopt a common sense approach that saves construction costs.

      b. Prevent abuse of the appeal process.

4. Reduce the costs to build, buy and rent

      a. Align government fees and charges with the goal of building more housing.

         i. Improve the municipal funding model.

         ii. Modernize HST thresholds.

      b. Make it easier to build rental units.

      c. Make homeownership possible for more Ontarians

5. Support and incentivize scaling up housing supply

      a. Invest in municipal infrastructure.

      b. Create the Labour Force to meet the housing supply need.

      c. Create a large Ontario Housing Delivery Fund to align efforts and incent new housing supply.

         i. Build alignment between governments to enable builders to deliver more homes.

         ii. Mirror policy changes with financial incentives aligned across governments.

      d. Sustain focus, measure, monitor, improve

         i. Digitize and modernize the approvals and planning process.

         ii. Improve the quality of housing data to inform decision-making.

         iii. Monitor the crisis and change the conversation around housing.

**AMO Response:**

Following the publishing of the report, the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) released a report response submission to the Government of Ontario. AMO believes that the Task Force report focuses on solutions primarily at the local level and do not include government interventions through planning and financial instruments. For instance, the Task Force report includes several recommendations pertaining to municipal planning and development approvals but does not focus on other major development holdups such as the Ontario Land Tribunal.

AMO also seeks to clarify several beliefs stated in the Task Force report. Firstly, the notion that increasing any sort of housing supply will address affordability. AMO calls for more targeted action to effectively meet the needs of Ontarians of all income levels. Secondly, AMO addresses the concept that development charges increase housing costs, pointing out that there is no guarantee that developers would provide more affordable housing as a result of the savings on development charges.

Finally, AMO acknowledges the promising policy outcomes in the report that merit further investigation. AMO believes that policy objectives should be achieved by establishing intensification targets paired with funding and support for municipalities.

2

**RESOURCES REQUIRED:**

The report focuses primarily on how the provincial government can support municipalities to create more housing to meet the demand. The recommendations contained in the report attempt to further encourage housing growth by reducing barriers, incentivizing, and prioritizing housing development. Locally, no resources are required at this time, however, the implementation of the recommendations will have an impact on local planning and development.

**RISK IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION:**

The full impact of the implementation of the report's recommendations will be realized once the recommendations are put into action. The availability of "shovel-ready" projects will be an advantage with the potential roll-out of incentives for housing development.

**CONCLUSION:**

The recommendations contained in the Task Force report recognizes the current housing crisis, and demonstrates that the province is focused on a solution. The major highlight of the report is the goal of building 1.5 million homes in the province in the next ten years. This along with the removal of municipal rules that prevent or delay new housing, the addition of financial supports to municipalities, and improvements to the housing approval process and housing appeals system all align with DNSSAB's goals to increase affordable housing as per the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. The implementation of these recommendations should now be a focal point for the Province.

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**BRIEFING NOTE    CS04-22**

☐ **For Information  or   ☒ For Approval**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date:** | April 27, 2022 |
| **Purpose**: | **Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Plan** |
| **Prepared by:** | Lynn Démoré-Pitre, Director Children's Services |
| **Reviewed by:** | Justin Avery, Manager of Finance |
| **Approved by:** | Catherine Matheson, Chief Administrative Officer |

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**RECOMMENDTATION:**
THAT the District of Nipissing Social Services Administrative Board (DNSSAB) accepts Briefing Note CS04-22 for information and that the DNSSAB Board directs staff to develop of an expansion plan to address the early years and licensed child care needs in the district; and,
THAT the plan be brought to committee for consideration by October 2022.

**BACKGROUND:**
In 2021, the federal budget proposed to invest up to $27.2 billion over five years towards a national early learning and child care plan, starting in 2021-22 as part of initial 5-year agreements.

On March 23, 2022, the DNSSAB's Community Services Committee received Briefing Note CS03-22 related to Canada's Early Years and Child Care Plan which described the investment towards a national early learning and child care plan, starting in 2021-2022 as part of initial five-year agreements between the federal and provincial governments.

**CURRENT STATUS/STEPS TAKEN TO DATE:**
On March 28, 2022, the Governments of Ontario and Canada signed the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement. The Province of Ontario reached a $13.2 billion commitment over six years with the federal government on a national child care plan.

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Licensed child care providers have the option to opt in or out of the CWELCC program. In order to participate in the CWELCC program, service providers must demonstrate their interest by advising their local service system manager of this by September 1, 2022.  The province will work with service system managers to enroll participating licensed child care service providers in the new program beginning in April 2022.  If a licensed child care service provider decides to opt out of the CWELCC program, they will not be able to opt into the program until this option becomes available again in 2023.

A provincial goal of this program is to offer financial relief to families through lower licensed child care fees. All families with children under six years of age attending licensed child care will receive a fee reduction of up to 25% (to a minimum of $12 per day), retroactive to April 1, 2022.  Families will receive further reductions by the end of December 2022. These reductions will reduce child care fees by an average of 50% per child. An additional reduction is planned for September 2024, with a last reduction to an average of $10 per day child care by September 2025.

In order to ensure a sustainable approach over time and to put into place protections for families, the province has implemented new regulations under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014.*  A rate freeze effective March 27, 2022, remains in effect until the licensed child care service provider notified parents and their local service system manager that they are opting in or out of the CWELCC program.  This indicates that unless communication related to fee increases has already been provided to families, all child care fees for children under six years of age are frozen until licensed child care service providers notify parents and the local service system managers about their decision on enrolment in the CWELCC program. The regulated child care rate freeze does not apply to families with children from 6 to 12 years of age.

The CWELCC agreement indicates that a strong and stable child care workforce is needed to meet the demands and ensure quality licensed child care options for families.  Measures to support and recognize the workforce also form part of the CWELCC agreement.  These include improved compensation for Registered Early Childhood Educators, professional development, training and initiatives designed to support workforce recruitment and retention.

The CWELCC agreement will also enable the province to create more licensed child care spaces. Ontario will have access to 86,000 new licensed child care spaces (above the 2019 levels) for children infancy up to five years of age, by the end of 2026. This means that approximately 71,000 net new spaces will be created. Families in areas with historically lower supply of licensed child care spaces will be prioritized, and new licensed child care spaces will be supported through start-up grants to help expand services and meet licensing requirements. At this time, there is no capital funding available through this agreement.

The Ministry of Education has advised that additional information and requirements related to the implementation of the CWELCC program will be provided to CMSMs/DSSABs in the

2

coming weeks (i.e. an addendum to the current funding guidelines, allocations, and supporting tools).

**RESOURCES REQUIRED, RISKS AND MITIGATION:**
The province has confirmed that it will maintain its existing fee subsidy program for low-income families. The fee subsidy program provides partial and full subsidies to eligible families utilizing licensed child care services. This will help to ensure that <u>all</u> families have equitable access to affordable early learning and child care services.

Ontario's child care tax credit program will also continue to remain in effect, providing financial supports to families.  The program assists families each year with up to 75% of their eligible expenses, including for licensed and unlicensed child care, home-based care, camps, and other settings. This will ensure that families continue have access to a variety of child care options that will best meet their children's needs.

CMSMs/DSSABs will continue their role as designated early years and child care service system managers.  To support CMSMs/DSSABs, the Ministry of Education has indicated that the administrative funding will be restored and that previously announced funding cuts will not be implemented.

**CONCLUSION:**
In order to ensure stability and sustainability of the licensed child care sector, the province is planning a phased approached to implementation of the CWELCC program.  DNSSAB will continue to work closely with the early years and child care service providers to ensure that the sector is well supported as the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system is implemented across the province.

Over the coming months, collaboration between the Ministry of Education, licensed child care service providers, school boards, municipalities, community partners and stakeholders will be required to meet local needs and meet desired outcomes.

The Board will continue to receive updates as additional information becomes available.

3

District of Nipissing
Social Services
Administration Board

Conseil d'administration
des servicessociaux
du districtde Nipissing

**BRIEFING NOTE    HS22-22**

☐ For Information  or   ☒ For Approval

**Date:**              April 27, 2022

**Purpose**:          **Coordinated Access Nipissing Update and Prioritization of Housing and Homelessness Resources**

**Prepared by:**      Stacey Cyopeck, Director, Housing Programs

**Reviewed by:**      Justin Avery, Manager of Finance

**Approved by:**      Catherine Matheson, Chief Administrative Officer

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*Alignment with Strategic Plan: Healthy, Sustainable Communities*

☒ **Maximize Impact**   ☒ **Remove Barriers**     ☒**Seamless Access**      ☐ **Learn & Grow**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board receives report HS11-22 providing an update on Coordinated Access Nipissing and approves the Prioritization of Housing and Homelessness Resources as set out in the report.

**BACKGROUND:**

The implementation of Coordinated Access, including HIFIS 4.0 and a By-Name list (BNL), has been mandated by both Federal and Provincial governments. In March of 2022, the Federal Government acknowledged that the pandemic has created capacity barriers making it difficult to fulfill all of the required steps to Coordinated Access by the March 31, 2022 deadline. An extension for completion of implementation was granted to the end of June 2022 with the submission of a final implementation plan by March 31, 2022. The DNSSAB submitted the District's Implementation Plan to ESDC on March 30, 2022.

**CURRENT STATUS/STEPS TAKEN TO DATE:**

**Client Updates/New Intakes:**

- As of February 2021, the DNSSAB has worked with several community agencies to develop a process for updating, and adding to the current By-Name List.  With this process

in place, the Coordinated Access Nipissing (CAN) group has added 25 new clients to the By-Name List.

- This collaborative group has been able to house 37 clients on the By-Name List who will be followed to track whether they stay stably housed.
- 32 of these 37 individuals were original PiT Count survey respondents.

**Collaborative CAN processes:**

- The Community Advisory Board (CAB) continues to provide ongoing oversight and guidance to CAN development and implementation and all CAN partner agencies are members of the CAB.
- The CAN partnership has developed a 'Quick Assessment and Prioritization Tool', designated access points to ensure 24/7 service provision, reviewed intake procedures, decided best practices for Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT) Assessments, set a schedule and agenda for action-based case conferencing, and implemented an Executive Committee, HIFIS 4.0 Leads, and CAN Team members.

**Examples of CAN processes at work:**

- A CAN client was identified, assessed and housed within a 7-day period thanks to the collaborative efforts of the CAN partnership.
- A family of five was able to find housing with the assistance of the CAN partnership.
- With collaboration between the DNSSAB, NBIFC and the CCNB, an individual who was precariously housed and in the process of being removed from housing due to ineligibility, was added to the BNL, assessed, supported, and finally housed within a unit of their choice.
- All individuals and households housed from the BNL will be followed for at least a year.

**In addition:**

- The CAN Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) has been signed by all CAN community partners.

- Built for Zero (BFZ) Canada continues to work with the DNSSAB to monitor compliance in implementation of the BNL and CAN.

- A Nipissing District Housing Resource Inventory, used for matching individuals and households on the BNL with the housing and supports that are required to move them out of homelessness, is in the last stages of completion.

- The HIFIS 4.0 Training Manual and the CAN Guide are both in final draft version.

- HIFIS 4.0 is live and being used within the DNSSAB homelessness services, including the Homelessness Prevention Navigators (HPN). The HPNs are the DNSSAB's access point within the CAN process and will be using HIFIS 4.0 to track direct client benefits for the new Homelessness Prevention Program, and for navigation and coordination of services with other CAN partners.

- The CAN process has been developed and refined with the advice and input from both Executive and front-line levels of CAN partner agencies:

- Throughout the CAN process, data will be gathered and evaluated for the mandatory reporting expected by funders and for local planning and identification of successes, gaps and resource needs within the District.

**NEXT STEPS:**

A strong CAN process will use a housing first approach along with standardized and coordinated procedures for access, assessment, prioritization and referral for housing and other services across all the agencies and organizations in Nipissing.

The DNSSAB, as the Service Manager and Community Entity, is obligated to facilitate the coordination of services, supports and housing for individuals and households experiencing homelessness in Nipissing and implement policies that will delegate housing and support resources using the prioritization processes defined by the BNL and CAN.

The following process is being recommended for prioritization of DNSSAB Housing Resources with the households on the BNL:

By-Name List Eligible Benefits
- ✓ Rent Supplements (CRS) – must be added to registry prior to offer
- ✓ Rent Supplement (SCRS)
- ✓ PHB – must be added to registry prior to offer
- ✓ COHB
- ✓ RGI / Social Housing

The DNSSAB will prioritize households from the BNL by offering one out of every 10 housing resources to eligible households from the BNL. This method of access will recognize the importance of housing individuals and households experiencing homelessness, especially chronic homelessness, while acknowledging the many households currently waiting for housing and resources on waitlists.

Benefits will be matched to eligible households and individuals through the CAN Team BNL monitoring and those who are moved out of homelessness through the offered benefit will be followed for at least a year after their move from homelessness.

**RESOURCES REQUIRED:**

HIFIS 4.0 implementation and maintenance will also be part of the DNSSAB's obligation for CAN, along with the Data reporting that will be required by both the Provincial and Federal funding bodies. Five members of the DNSSAB staff will be attending training in April to learn how to create and produce reports using HIFIS. This same training will also be offered to CAN partner agencies when they fully implement HIFIS 4.0. The funding for this training will be from the Community Capacity and Innovation funding through Reaching Home.

In May 2022, Built for Zero Canada will open the opportunity for new communities to join BFZ. This was identified within the Homelessness Action Plan as a way for the District to move forward with the goal of reaching functional zero for chronic homelessness within Nipissing. Becoming a BFZ community has an associated annual fee of approximately $2,000.

**RISK IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION:**

As of 2022, all Federal and Provincial homelessness funding has mandated requirements for regular enumeration, data compilation, and service and housing resource prioritization and collaboration. The new Provincial Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), which consolidates CHPI and Strong Communities funding, has reporting categories that are directly tied to the BNL. The DNSSAB is adapting internal processes to fulfil Federal and Provincial directives.

By June 30, 2022, HIFIS 4.0 and CAN must be fully implemented. Many CAN community partner agencies have had capacity issues as a result of the ongoing pressures of the pandemic and increased need of the vulnerable populations they serve. The extension of the implementation deadline for CAN and HIFIS 4.0 will allow the DNSSAB staff to train and support the CAN partner agencies flexibly and the CCI funding from RH will provide financial support.

**CONCLUSION:**

The implementation of Coordinated Access Nipissing and the creation of shared processes, consents and assessments will fulfill the mandatory requirements of the funders while strengthening the District's Homelessness system. The implementation of HIFIS 4.0 will facilitate collection of data throughout the District of Nipissing. The data gathered can then be used for planning at all levels of service and governance and also for the creation of a collaborative and data-driven continuum of services for the individuals who are represented by the data.