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DNSSAB SETS HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN - A 12-MONTH STRATEGY

North Bay, ON: The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) has approved the [“Homelessness Action Plan in the Nipissing District”](#), providing a framework of action that addresses homelessness over the next 12 months. The framework draws from the Board’s 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, A Place to Call Home (2014-2024) with an emphasis on shelter diversion, improving housing stability, and increasing local housing options. As well, the Action Plan follows a report approved last month, “Homelessness Landscape in Nipissing District”, which highlighted the increase in local homelessness despite significant investments and planning efforts by DNSSAB and other community organizations.

Many of the action items build on and complement the community progress and work that is already underway including community mobile housing supports, household stabilization initiatives, and developing a coordinated housing access system.

The Action Plan sets priorities and actions across the housing continuum that work with stabilizing individuals in absolute homelessness and emergency shelters to transitional and supportive housing so that they can then move on to more independent housing. Over the next year, the Action Plan focuses on connecting homeless individuals with housing and health services and programs and proposes the development of an innovative and cost-effective transitional housing system of up to 61 units designed to provide shelter, supports and housing stability. The proposed creation of transitional and supportive housing will provide supports for independent living through a suite of homelessness prevention programs and services. Advanced data collection and analysis of these priorities will track the progress of the plan to assist future decisions.

The Action Plan will be best met through a continued and enhanced system of supports amongst partner agencies with a shared vision of goals, accountability and outcomes.

“This Action Plan takes a hard look at what is essential to moving people off the street and into stable, independent housing. For some it may take some time while others, with fewer barriers, will reach independent living more quickly. This is a great plan that draws on many existing community resources and partnerships,” says DNSSAB Chair, Mark King.

Homelessness Action Plan progress reports will be presented on a quarterly basis over the next 12 months.

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