



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DNSSAB Launches Off-Road Response Program to Improve Access to Care

New program enhances emergency response in off-road locations across the District

North Bay, ON: The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) has launched a new Off-Road Response Program, adding a dedicated capability within Paramedic Services to support preparedness and coordination when responding to incidents where conventional ambulances may face access limitations.

The District of Nipissing includes vast rural and recreational areas. Traditionally, accessing patients who have experienced medical or traumatic emergencies in these environments has relied heavily on support from allied agencies. While these partnerships remain essential, availability and response priorities can vary depending on location, conditions, and resource mandates.

DNSSAB's Off-Road Response Program was approved by the Board in November 2024 and became operational in April 2026 following the completion of equipment procurement, staff training, and the development of supporting policies and procedures.

As part of the program, Paramedic Services has acquired a Polaris Ranger 1000 XP Northstar Edition, custom retrofitted to support patient access and transport over varied terrain and seasonal conditions. The vehicle is supported by specialized equipment and a dedicated trailer to assist with staging and deployment when appropriate.

"When emergencies happen in areas that are difficult to access by standard emergency vehicles, timing, and coordination matter," said Mark King, DNSSAB Board Chair. "This

program gives our paramedics an additional tool to support patient care in these situations, while continuing to prioritize safety and strong partnerships.”

Selection and training of paramedic and supervisory staff have focused on safety, operational readiness, and best practices. Training has included collaboration with local Fire Departments and Police Services to support coordinated responses when incidents occur in challenging environments.

The off-road response vehicle may also be used to support planned medical coverage at festivals and community events where factors such as terrain, congestion, or site layout may limit access for standard emergency vehicles.

The program was supported through external funding opportunities secured by DNSSAB, including funding from Hydro One Networks Inc. through its Energizing Life Community Fund, which contributed to the program’s development and implementation.

Additional funding support was received through TC Energy’s Build Strong program, further contributing to the enhancement of emergency response capacity within the District.

“Our community investment program is focused on supporting initiatives that help strengthen the places where we live and work,” stated TC Energy. “We’re proud to support DNSSAB’s Off-Road Response Program, helping communities stay safe and resilient.”

While the Off-Road Response Program adds valuable flexibility to Paramedic Services’ response options, deployment decisions will continue to be based on incident-specific considerations, including terrain, weather conditions, safety, and coordination with partner agencies. Paramedic Services will continue to evaluate the program and pursue opportunities to strengthen training and operational preparedness.





About DNSSAB:

The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) is the service delivery agency for essential human services to the residents of the Nipissing District. These include the Coordinated Services of Ontario Works, Housing Services and Homelessness Services, Children's Services, and Paramedic Services. The jurisdiction of the DNSSAB covers a population of about 85,000 people, spread out over 17,000 square kilometres, 11 municipalities, two First Nations, and two unorganized areas – Nipissing North and Nipissing South. The Board is made up of 11 municipal councillors and one elected representative for the Townships Without Municipal Organization. The Board members exercise powers, duties and responsibilities relating to the delivery of human services, while respecting the DSSAB Act and the Board's Procedural By-Laws and governance model. Shared responsibilities with the Province and municipalities are combined within the DNSSAB.

Learn more at dnssab.ca

DNSSAB Contact:

Brooke Piercey, Communications and Executive Coordinator
brooke.piercey@dnssab.ca | 705-474-2151 ext. 63164