

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NOVEMBER 18, 2020**

## **Shelter is Available for People who are Homeless in Nipissing District**

*North Bay, ON* – As temperatures dip below freezing, it is even more critical that people know that there are shelter services available to them.

In the Nipissing District, shelter is available through the Low Barrier Shelter site at 590 Chippewa Street and the Crisis Centre North Bay at 1675 Cassells Street.

“The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) and its community partners have been working diligently to have shelter available to people who are homeless,” says Mark King, DNSSAB Chair. “Homelessness is a complex issue, but shelter is available for those who need it,” King adds.

“We are concerned that the public is being left with the wrong idea of why vulnerable people may be sleeping in tents,” says Mary Davis, CEO of Nipissing Mental Health Housing & Support Services (NMHHSS), which operates the Low Barrier Shelter. “We want to emphasize that there is flexibility within the system. In instances where our facility is at capacity, there are procedures in place. We work with our partners and make every attempt to ensure appropriate shelter is available to those who want it.”

In addition, the DNSSAB, through Provincial funding partnerships, is constructing 36 transitional housing units, in addition to the 21 Low Barrier Shelter spaces currently operating at the Chippewa site. 16 of those transitional housing units will be open in early 2021 and operated by NMHHSS.

If you, or anyone you know, are homeless, services are available by reaching out to the agencies listed below:

**Low Barrier Shelter** – 590 Chippewa Street North Bay, open 8:30pm-8am, (705) 358-1437  
**Crisis Centre North Bay -Four Elms** – 1675 Cassells Street, North Bay, (705) 474-1031, open 24 hours, 7 days/week, accepting men, women and children who are homeless and/or fleeing domestic violence.

Or by Calling:

**Nipissing Mental Health Housing and Support Services (NMHHSS)** – (705) 476-4088

**Crisis Centre North Bay** – (705) 474-1031

**Low Income People Involvement (LIPI)** - (705) 472-1337

**North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre (NBIFC)** – (705) 472-2811

If you are in crisis or experiencing an emergency, you are reminded to call 911.

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