



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JUNE 30, 2020**

## **COVID-19 Low-Barrier Shelter to be located at 590 Chippewa Street**

*North Bay, ON* - The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board agreed in a special meeting yesterday to continue the services operated by Nipissing Mental Health and Housing Support Services (NMHHSS), running 12 hours per day, at the future location for the transitional housing program at 590 Chippewa Street. This plan includes the use of a portable building to accommodate vulnerable individuals during the period of the pandemic.

It will take up to three weeks to prepare the Chippewa site. An alternate site or a short extension of the current site will be needed up to July 31<sup>st</sup> in order to prepare the new location.

All provincial and federal funds which were identified for the current shelter will be exhausted by July 7<sup>th</sup>. The Board also agreed to a budget of up to \$100,000 monthly in available one-time operating funding to December 31, 2020 to accommodate the need.

“There is no change in the need for an emergency COVID responsive shelter given the continuing pandemic,” says DNSSAB Chair Mark King. “There also remains a clear need for a permanent low barrier shelter facility to house the homeless,” King adds.

DNSSAB will also continue to advocate strongly for continued provincial and federal financial support for the homeless during this pandemic and will pursue creative solutions for the future.