



MEDIA RELEASE - DECEMBER 18, 2007

DTSSAB Gives a Gift that Matters

On January 1, 2006 the Province of Ontario replaced the five former funding streams for homelessness prevention into one consolidated program, the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program (CHPP).

The program goals are:

- To improve access to and connect households that are homeless with the system of community services;
- To support households experiencing homelessness to obtain and keep longer term housing; and,
- To assist households at risk of homelessness to retain their housing.

The District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board (DTSSAB) will assume direct administration of the CHPP effective January 1, 2008. Previously, the Canadian Mental Health Association – Cochrane Timiskaming (CMHA) administered the Homelessness Prevention and Emergency Energy programs on behalf of the DTSSAB. The DTSSAB continues to work with CMHA-CT to ensure a smooth transition while focused on client services.

The funding allocation for the District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board will end with a one-time surplus in excess of \$60,000 for 2007. With the goals of the program in mind, and upon meeting with District Food Bank representatives, the DTSSAB decided to provide one-time funds to our Food Banks, and the DTSSAB's social assistance clients. Our goal is to improve individual and family access to an adequate amount of food and reduce their risk of homelessness. A reoccurring struggle for those living in poverty is the choice of the roof over their head or food in their cupboards. The DTSSAB wants to diminish this risk, even if it is just over the holiday season.

At the December 13, 2007 District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board meeting, the disbursement of the funds were approved as follows:

- Salvation Army Kirkland Lake Food Bank - \$5,000
- Salvation Army Tri-Towns Food Bank - \$5,000
- Cobalt, Coleman, Latchford & Area Food Bank - \$2,000
- Haileybury Food Bank - \$2,000
- Englehart & Area Food Bank - \$2,000
- CMHA-CT (Timiskaming Housing Help) \$15,000
- DTSSAB Social Assistance Programs Clients \$ 32,000

The DTSSAB will use these funds to provide each member of an Ontario Works case with a form of \$25 in additional one-time financial assistance towards food. Whether a single person or a family of 5, every individual will get one. Furthermore, the DTSSAB will purchase prepaid goods and services from local businesses for such needs as food, transportation, and overnight accommodations; which will also continue as part of the program in 2008. These can be issued in emergency situations where a person may otherwise be faced with spending a night on the street.

- FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT -

Mr. Norman Menard, Board Chair

OR

Mr. David Court, CAO (A)