



Media Release

Rainy River DSSAB Elects Chair & Vice-Chair

Fort Frances, Ontario – 2022/02/21 – The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) held its first meeting of 2023 on January 19, 2023 at 10:15 am, at 450 Scott Street, in Fort Frances, ON.

The first order of business was to complete the swearing in of all members of the newly established Board followed by the election of a new Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2023 year, pursuant to legislative requirements. Dan McCormick, CAO is pleased to advise that, Debbie Ewald, Mayor of the Town of Rainy River was acclaimed as Chair and Andrew Hallikas, Mayor of the Town of Fort Frances was acclaimed as Vice-Chair. The 2023 Board consists of the following members appointed by their municipality or elected/appointed within the Territories without Municipal Organization (TWOMO):

Chair	Debbie Ewald	Town of Rainy River	Previous member
Vice-Chair	Andrew Hallikas	Town of Fort Frances	Previous member
Director	Mike Ford	Township of Alberton	Previous member
Director	Colleen Fadden	Township of Lake of the Woods	Previous member
Director	Bill Langner	Township of Dawson	Previous member
Director	Telford Advent	Township of Morley	New member
Director	James Gibson	Township of Chapple	Previous member
Director	Lisa Teeple	Township of Emo	New member
Director	Brendan Hyatt	Township of LaVallee	New member
Director	Robert Ferguson	Town of Atikokan	New member
Director	Wade Desserre	TWOMO –West	New member
Director	Don Canfield	TWOMO –Central	Previous member
Director	Robert Burns	TWOMO – East	Previous member

“My thanks to everyone for supporting me as the Chair of this new RRDSSAB Board,” stated Debbie Ewald, “We have a great mix of members and I look forward to working with you all to maintain and improve services through 2023. We have many issues to focus on with the key being housing and homelessness, the opioid crisis and the financial impacts on our municipalities. Only by working together, effective lobbying and our dedicated staff will our district be able to thrive.”

Andrew Hallikas, Vice-Chair also noted, “I am very pleased to be able to return as Vice Chair for the RRDSSAB and thank the members for their support. As the chair notes we have many areas to work together to ensure the continued delivery of services to the most vulnerable in our society in an efficient and cost-effective manner.”

CAO Dan McCormick stated, “Our new 2023 Board is keen to continue the work to address homelessness, to ensure a continuity of care for our most vulnerable to ensure the public and staff are safe, services are maintained and our municipalities are provided the opportunity to thrive. In the latter part of January, Debbie Ewald, Chair and Don Canfield, Board member and myself met with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services to propose solutions to many of the issues facing the Rainy

River DSSAB and our municipalities and residents. We continue to seek equitable funding, development of services not currently available in our district as well as enhancements of programs and the provision of new money to address gaps in services.”

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with information on our board. Should you have any questions please contact me as indicated below:

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