



**Date 31 August 2010**

## **City Council Committee Report**

**To: Mayor Compton & Members of Council**

**Fr: Karen Brown**

**Re: KDSB & AMO Follow Up**

### **Recommendation:**

**That** Council hereby approves a letter to Minister Meilleur expressing the City's commitment to pursue stable funding for both the homelessness / shelter program issue as well as transitional housing, including a request for the Ministry's long term strategic plan for addressing the homelessness issue across the Province; and

**That** Council hereby approves a formal notice to the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) advising that the City is dissatisfied with the treatment of the uploaded savings in the 2010 KDSB budget and formally requesting that savings related to the uploaded costs to the Province in 2011 and future year budgets be passed on directly to the municipalities in the KDSB service area.

### **Background:**

During the AMO Convention, Kenora delegates had the opportunity of meeting with both PA Cansfield (Municipal Affairs & Housing) and Minister Meilleur. The discussions during these meetings, as well as other information from the AMO convention, were previously documented in a report to Council dated August 23, 2010. A copy of this report has been attached for your reference.

As a result of these meetings, there were some follow up items to be discussed. Specifically, this report contains information on opportunities for funding related to the Homelessness programs, as well as the issue related to the KDSB passing on savings related to cost uploads to the Province.

Following the conference, I had the opportunity to speak with a Ministry Official from the local Community and Social Services office. The following are the highlights of this discussion:

- **Homelessness / Shelter Program Funding** – The Ministry does not provide stable funding for shelter programs. Funding is based on usage, with the first 15 days (within a six month period) being paid at the highest rate or "max per diem", and any remaining days (within those six months) being paid at a low "board and lodging rate". There is also the

approximately \$68K in funding paid to the KDSB which is currently split 1/3 to each of Sioux Lookout, Red Lake and Kenora shelters. Kenora's only option for pursuing this through the Province is simply to persevere lobbying the Province in an attempt to get stable funding. As suggested by Minister Meilleur at the AMO meeting, however, it was also noted that the independent municipalities, or the KDSB, could use the savings resulting from the uploaded costs to address homelessness / shelter issues. It was questioned if the KDSB retained the savings to use towards homelessness, recognizing there was no offsetting Provincial funding program, whether the Province would continue to pay the approximately 45% Unincorporated share to match those funds. The Ministry Official indicated that he would confirm that with the Ministry and advise accordingly. [In the interim, it is recommended that a follow up letter be sent to Minister Meilleur reinforcing the City's interest in obtaining committed, stable funding for both the shelter and the transitional housing programs, including a request for the Ministry's long term strategic plan for addressing the homelessness issues across the Province.](#)

- **KDSB Uploaded Savings** – This is addressed through the budget process at the KDSB Board, however clear indication should be provided from the City that we are dissatisfied with the KDSB keeping the uploaded savings for use on other programs, and that we request that these savings be passed on to the municipalities through a reduction in the budget. It is unfortunate that the City does not know if the 45% Unincorporated funding would be kept if some of these funds were used to address homelessness throughout the district. It should be noted here that the KDSB is currently working towards passing its 2011 budget prior to November 30, 2010. [It is recommended that Council advise the KDSB that the City is dissatisfied with the treatment of the uploaded savings in the 2010 budget, and formally request that savings from the uploaded costs to the Province in 2011 and future year budgets be passed on directly to the municipalities.](#)

**Budget:**

There are no budget impacts as a result of these recommendations. Any potential impact would only come based on future related decisions by either the KDSB or the City of Kenora.

**Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:**

Communication would be sent in accordance with the recommendation.