



December 22, 2017

Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association Wants the Provincial Roadmap for Changes to Social Programs to be Sustainable and Fully Funded by the Province!

In October 2017, the Provincial Government released for comment, a groundbreaking report entitled ***Income Security: A Roadmap for Change***. In it, it states that “*Ontario’s income security system affects us all. No matter our background, our successes, or our challenges, we all have a shared interest in supporting people’s ability to thrive and contribute to the social fabric of our communities and the economic well-being of our province*”. NOSDA strongly supports that underlying philosophy!

“While NOSDA supports the recommended changes to Ontario Works’ fundamental framework as outlined in the report ***Income Security: A Roadmap for Change***, these changes need to occur for the health and well-being of the population regardless of the political climate or which party is in government” said NOSDA Chair Iain Angus.

At the same time, no increased costs should fall on to municipalities that are already paying more than their fair share for social services from a limited tax base.

While the Province develops this new framework, and stages a transformation that is achievable, it is requested that consultation occur with NOSDA, as Service System Managers, to ensure that these solutions reflect the challenges and factors that are unique to Northern Ontario residents”.

The Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) represents Northern Ontario’s eleven Municipal Service Managers that have responsibility for local planning, coordination and delivery of a range of community health and social services, including Social Housing, Child Care, Ontario Works and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

In NOSDA’s response to the paper, Chair, Iain Angus, a member of the Thunder Bay District Social Service Administration Board, stated that

“Many of the concerns/issues outlined in the report are especially felt in the North. Along with some of the financial costs and hardships, there are other factors affecting the North that impedes an individual’s ability for inclusion and general well-being. Some of these factors include, but are not limited to overall health & access, the cost of basic necessities including food and heat, high transportation costs and lack of availability, limited access to

technology, lower educational achievement, barriers to social inclusion including lower literacy and numeracy rates and cyclical and declining labour market conditions.”

Fern Dominelli, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Administration Board and NOSDA’s CAO Lead suggests

“These factors are unique and challenging, but they can be overcome with approaches that are themselves unique. Service System Managers in the North have developed local programs and policies in the hope of providing an improved quality of life and sense of community to its residents. These solutions are creative and designed to attempt to overcome some of the barriers that geography, capacity and need form. Partnerships with local Indigenous Friendship Centres, education centres and economic development offices are robust and maximize available resources”.

-30-

For more information, please contact: Iain Angus at (807) 474-0926 or Fern Dominelli at (705) 222-7777