

# DSB representation to remain status quo

Tom Sasvari  
The Recorder

ESPANOLA—Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) board representation will remain status quo. This comes after an adhoc committee of the board had been set up to look at board representation.

“This issue came up at our board meeting (in November), and it was decided by the board there will be no changes in representation at this time,” said Fern Dominelli, DSB CAO. “The committee went through the process of looking at changing the current representation but agreed nothing should be changed,” said Mr. Dominelli.

Earlier this year, the Sudbury East Municipal Association (SEMA), which includes Markstay, Warren, St. Charles, French River and Killarney, had made a presentation to the board looking for additional representation on the board.

It was noted the current representation structure was set up in 1998, and in every term of the board this issue has been brought up by an area or municipality to look at. The ad hoc committee included one representative from the seven DSB areas.

Derek Stephens, a member of the DSB board and the adhoc committee, told the Recorder after the meeting, “Nothing is going to change in terms of representation on the DSB board. We looked at 12 different models, and decided to leave everything the same. The committee held lots of meetings, and we agreed to put it in place that we will look (at board representation) every 10 years. It is interesting to note that under every scenario we looked at the Island is under represented.”

“We decided to have this issue revisited in 10 years—it was felt as populations could change in the various municipalities,” said Mr. Stephens, who said the recommendation made by the committee (that was agreed to by the board) led to “a few municipalities, (especially) those in SEMA, being upset. They had brought everything forward, but our recommendation was to leave things status quo.”

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Mr. Stephens pointed out, however, "all municipal zones represented at the table are fairly represented," pointing out Manitoulin is represented by three members on the board. "No one is more represented than anyone else."

As Mr. Dominelli had explained at this year's DSB annual general meeting, the total number of board members for each of the 10 District Services Boards (DSBs) in the province is set out in the provincial DSB Act and regulations. Any increase or decrease in the number of board members or any change to the boundaries of an area requires a change in the provincial regulations. In the past, the province has clearly stated they would not consider a regulation change regarding the board member distribution unless there is a clear double majority support for the requested change.

The DSB steering committee hired the Randolph Group to develop a board representation model in 1998. The model developed by the Randolph Group was approved by the DSB steering committee and by a double majority vote as defined by DSB Act regulations in 1998.

The current board representation model is based on population. In 1998 the total population was 31,977 and there is on average one board member assigned per 2,284 in population, explained Mr. Dominelli at the AGM. He

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explained the current representation model includes Espanola with a population of 5,306 and two board members; Sables-Spanish Rivers, Baldwin, Nairn and Hyman with a population of 4,244 and two board members; French River, Killarney, Markstay-Warren, St. Charles with three board members and a population of 6,305; Chapleau with a population of 2,766 and one board member; Billings, Burpee and Mills, Cockburn Island, Gordon and Barrie Island and Gore Bay with a population of 2,185 and one board member; Assiginack, Central Manitoulin, Northeast Town and Tehkummah with a population of 5,096 and two board members; as well as Territories without Municipal Organization (TWOMO) with a total population of 6,075 and three board members.

SEMA had asked the board to revisit this issue. Representatives have stated the selection of board members should not rely solely on population but must include the financial

contributions made by a municipality or group of municipalities.

"I think they understand

the process the committee went through and the board's decision on this," said Mr. Dominelli.