

## Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB board upset with changes to youth summer job program

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The Recorder

ESPANOLA—The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (MSDSB) is taking its concerns to Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne on the fact that 92 youth will not get an opportunity for a summer job in 2016 due to changes in the provinces programming for high risk youth.

“The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board and its 18 member municipalities need to understand how the ministry can reduce the number of youth placements from 111 in the summer placement component to 19 summer placements under the new Youth Job Connection. This represents an 83 percent reduction in the number of high risk youth obtaining summer jobs,” stated Les Gamble, chair of the MSDSB in a letter to premier Kathleen Wynne. “This means there will be 92 high risk youth who will not get an opportunity for a summer job in 2016 because of the change in provinces programming for high risk youth.”

“Our program will go from 111 (in 2015) to 19 for the whole jurisdiction,” confirmed Fern Dominelli CAO of the DSB, after a board meeting last week. “We are sending a letter to the Premier outlying our concerns. We want the premier to intervene on this issue. What it means is that 92 high risk youth will not get a job placement in 2016. For example the Manitoulin-Lacloche area will have seven job placements in 2016 as compared to 58 this past year which is a 88 percent reduction.”

In the letter to the Premier dated September 24, 2015, Mr. Gamble wrote, “the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board received a letter on August 14, 2015 confirming the funding allocation and site targets for the Youth Job Connection (YJC) program.”

“In this same letter, our organization is asked to accept the funding to deliver both components of the program-Youth Job Connection from October 2015 to March 2017, and Youth Job Connection Summer program from April 2016 to March 2017,” wrote Mr. Gamble. “Shortly thereafter, the DSB asked for the Ministry of Training college and Universities rationale to determine funding allocations and targets. Ministry staff responded by indicating the Ministry used the following data sources to determine YJC funding allocations at the Consolidated Municipal Services Manager (CMSM/District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) level: -administrative data from the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) on the number of youth who have applied for social assistance; Employment Service program data on youth clients (e.g. percent of youth served and employed outcomes for youth); Census data on youth unemployment by region; Statistics Canada’s 2011 national household survey data on youth unemployment by CMSM/DSSAB.”

“Ministry staff also advised that to determine YJC funding allocations at the site level, the Ministry used data on each site’s youth service capacity (e.g. number of employment services youth served, number of youth employment fund replacements),” continued Mr. Gamble.

“In 2013, the Ontario government announced the two-year Youth Jobs Strategy. The Youth Employment Fund (YEF) is a key part of the strategy that has created employment opportunities for over 25,000 youth. The YEF created employment opportunities for populations with high youth unemployment, by providing financial support for training and employer incentives for job placements,” wrote Mr. Gamble. “For those two years, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB was the delivery agent for the Youth Employment Fund. In 2013-2014, we provided supports to seven youth between the ages of 15 and 29 years old with

an allocation of \$37,226. In 2014-2015, we provided supports to 15 youth with a fiscal allocation of \$78,000.”

“We are currently in the process of collecting the youth employment fund (YEF) funding levels from College Boreal and Cambrian College. We are aware that under the new Youth Job connect program Cambrian College’s target for October, 2015 to March 2016 is 15 placements and 21 placements for the fiscal year 2016-2017. In addition, College Boreal’s target for October 2015 to March 2016 is 14 placements and 27 placements for the fiscal year 2016-2017.”

Mr. Gamble explained, “unfortunately the YEF program ended on March 31, 2015 and it seems to have been replaced with the Youth Job Connection program which will begin on October 1, 2015. The client target for 2015-2016 is six (\$39,600) and for 2016-2017 it is 9 (\$59,400). The new target numbers and fiscal allocations are lower than the numbers of the two previous years and represents a reduction of 40 percent or 9 youth and a 24 percent reduction in funding over 2014-2015. But based on the reduction of 40 percent in the DSB run program, we suspect similar reductions with College Boreal and Cambrian College.”

“Premier, we had requested a delegation at AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) to discuss this issue with Minister Moridi but did not receive any response to our request. We are now asking for a meeting with you to discuss this drastic reduction in services in an area that was identified by the province as high risk,” added Mr. Gamble.