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## Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Purchases EMS Station in Central Manitoulin

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After months of negotiations the Manitoulin Sudbury District Services Board has completed the process of purchasing the building historically used as the EMS station located at 2090 Hwy 551 in Mindemoya. This brings station ownership to 9 in the 11 locations where the DSB operates an ambulance station.

Ownership of the station provides the DSB with a capital asset; one that adds value to the organization over time and immediately offsets leasing costs. As per DSB CAO Fern Dominelli, "in each of the 8 stations we previously owned, our costs per square foot is under \$15 whereas in our leasing situations we see a cost of over \$20 per square foot. Ownership obviously represents the most economical situation for this municipally funded service."

Over the coming months, there will be a review of identified needs with respect to building improvements and efficiencies, and those action items will be implemented as both time and budgets allow.

There will be no change to staffing or deployment as a result of this purchase however Chief of EMS Michael MacIsaac indicates that this purchase ensures a stable footing for Paramedics services in Central Manitoulin. "The communities comprising the Municipality of Central Manitoulin are geographically distanced and to continue to provide these services out of a more populated and centrally located area was an important factor in this purchase. Being close to the local Hospital is also beneficial from the perspective that once the crew has completed an emergency call they are immediately back within their standard deployment area."

For further information, contact Fern Dominelli, CAO at 705-862-7850 ext. 400.