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## NEWS LOCAL

# Sunshine List shines light on \$100K salaries



By Jessica Brousseau, The Mid-North Monitor  
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The annual report stating which public sector employees had a salary of \$100,000 or more was released on March 24. The Public Sector Salary Disclosure, also known as the Sunshine List, is made public on a yearly basis to taxpayers and includes salaries paid and taxable benefits.

### Municipality and services

The highest paid municipality worker in Espanola was former Espanola police chief Robert Towns, who collecting \$196,921.77, and a taxable benefit of \$291.76. The current Police Chief Steven Edwards earned \$141,110.45 with a taxable benefit of \$1,731.11 in 2015, following him was chief administrative officer/treasurer Cynthia Townsend earning \$121,314.63, with a taxable benefit of \$1,594.92.

Members of the Espanola Police Service who made the list were: Sarg. William Gardiner (\$119,508.32), Const. Melissa Rancourt (\$115,603.45), Const. Shawn Sullivan (\$113,219.27), Const. Steven Huard (\$110,228.90), Const. Donald St. Pierre (\$106,832.78), Const. Shawn Hawkins (\$106,301.53), Const. Edward Stortz (\$106,064.64), Const. William Lamour (\$104,037.05) and Const. Paula Martin (\$102,224.59).

Margaret Benian, a nurse practitioner with the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers was the only employee to cross the \$100,000 threshold earning \$113,660.30, with a taxable benefit of \$1,653.99.

### Hospital and boards of public health

Former chief executive officer, Ray Hunt, made \$187,015.12 with taxable benefits of \$1,059.30 before leaving Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Care Centre in 2015. His replacement, Nicole Haley made \$155,561.97 with taxable benefits of \$988.36.

Four other health care providers made the list: director of care - long-term care Paula Mitroff (\$102,559.14), chief finance officer Kimberly Roy (\$126,426.02), director of clinical services Jane Battistelli (\$123,174.35) and radiology technician Michael Flabiano (\$101,924.62).

### Legislative assembly and offices

Algoma-Manitoulin Member of Provincial Parliament, Michael Mantha made the list earning \$116,550. He also has a taxable benefit of \$240.69.

### School boards

Various members of the community made \$100,000 or more in 2014. The three school boards in the area include the Rainbow District School Board (RDSB), Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario (CSCNO) and the Huron-Superior Catholic school Board (HSCSB).

CSCNO has two school in Espanola, École secondaire catholique Franco-Ouest and École St. Joseph. Franco-Ouest principal Daniel Dalcourt earned \$115,295.29 last year with a taxable benefit of \$551.52. Pierrette Lemieux, principal of St. Joseph earned \$115,295.29 with taxable benefits of \$687.84.

CSCNO board members who made the list include: director of education Lyse-Anne Papineau (\$196,686.16), superintendents of education Monique Chrétien made (\$161,756.57) and Robert Mayer (\$147,673.36). Business and finance superintendent Cathy Modesto (\$160,481.27) and executive director of learning Nicole Sonier (\$136,717.90).

The RDSB has four schools in the area: Espanola High School (EHS), AB Ellis Public School, Webbwood Public School and S. Geiger Public School.

The principal of EHS Martin Punkari made \$123,584.25 and a taxable benefit of \$366.48 while vice-principal Susan Kett earned \$113,078.18 and a taxable benefit of \$336.24. AB Ellis principal Michael Bellrose earned \$123,584.25 and a taxable benefit of \$366.48 and vice-principal Daniel Koziar made \$107,149.81 and a taxable benefit of 317.46.

Top earning board members for the RDSB is director of education Norm Blaseg (\$185,221.99) and superintendent of schools Lesleigh Dye (\$173,210.30).

The final school board HSCDSB has: Sacred Heart Catholic School and St. Mary Catholic School.

Sacred Heart principal Syndy-Ann Withers earned \$117,059.77 last year with a taxable benefit of \$1,293.12 and St. Mary's principal Chris Vuorensyrja made \$116,359.69 with a taxable benefit of \$1,285.68.

Their top board members include: director of education John Stadnyk (\$187,457.63), superintendents of education Maria Esposito (\$157,457.53) and John Bruno (\$157,457.53)

#### **Other public sector employees**

Eight people employed with the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board had a yearly salary of more than \$100,000.

Chief administrative officer Fern Dominelli earned \$153,078.80 with a taxable benefit of \$1,026.43, and Peter Finlay was the highest paid paramedic with a salary of \$117,072.19 and taxable benefits of \$555.37.

Others included: chief of emergency medical services Michael Macisaac (\$115,027.36), director of integrated social services Donna Moroso (\$115,027.36) and director of finance and administration Connie Morphet (\$115,027.36).

Three paramedics who also made the list are Mike Cooper (\$111,167.02), John Allison (\$107,891.09) and Paul Zilio (\$101,607.34).

#### **About the list**

The list was introduced 20 years ago under the Mike Harris government. When introduced in 1996, it was set to show the income of those who hit the \$100,000 threshold. But, according to the Bank of Canada inflation rate, there has been a 1.85% annual inflation rate and \$100,000 then equals \$144,267.88 now.

But premier Kathleen Wynne stands by the 20-year-old amount, stating the \$100,000 is still a lot of money and is relevant.