



MEMORANDUM

To: NOSDA Members
Subject: Delegation at AMO, August 21st, 2012

On August 21st, 2012 I led a delegation that included Joe Krmpotich from Sault Ste. Marie, Louis Roussin from the Kenora DSSAB and David Landers from the Cochrane DSSAB to meet with Minister John Milloy of Community and Social Services.

The delegation focused on three key issues:

- The impact that the provincial budget changes to benefits has had on social assistance clients,
- The accumulative impact of provincial funding allocation reductions to northern Ontario, and
- The importance of working together to ensure that we minimize the impact to the most vulnerable Ontario residents when policy decisions are made.

Minister Milloy committed to work with northern Ontario DSSABs and CMSMs, particularly in terms of the accumulative effect of funding decisions, and showed an interest and willingness to participate at the NOSDA AGM. In addition, he showed an interest to come north to meet with us in northern Ontario to discuss social services issues on the ground.

Attached to this memo is a copy of the presentation that went to Minister Milloy and his staff.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary W. Scripnick!".

Gary Scripnick
NOSDA Chair

Encl.

NOSDA

**NORTHERN ONTARIO
SERVICE DELIVERERS
ASSOCIATION**

A Voice for Northern Ontario

Presentation to Minister of Community & Social Services

The Honourable John Milloy, August 21, 2012



What is NOSDA?

Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA)

- A co-operative and collaborative approach amongst municipalities and District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs)
- NOSDA is a political forum for reviewing and developing both policies and program delivery from a Northern perspective.
- As a group we attempt to achieve the effective and efficient delivery of services in Northern Ontario through joint action and information sharing.



Framework and Goals

NOSDA Members came together with a focus on cooperating to meet the challenges of northern service delivery:

- Achieve economies of scale by working together.
- Create effective and efficient delivery systems throughout the North.
- Reduce costs through information sharing, best practices and joint action.

NOSDA Members



KDSB Kenora District Services Board

**Manitoulin-Sudbury
DSSAB**
District Social Services Administration Board



**Rainy River
DSSAB**

District of Nipissing
Social Services
Administration Board



Conseil d'administration
des services sociaux
du district de Nipissing



**Greater | Grand
Sudbury**
www.greatersudbury.ca



THUNDER BAY DISTRICT
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

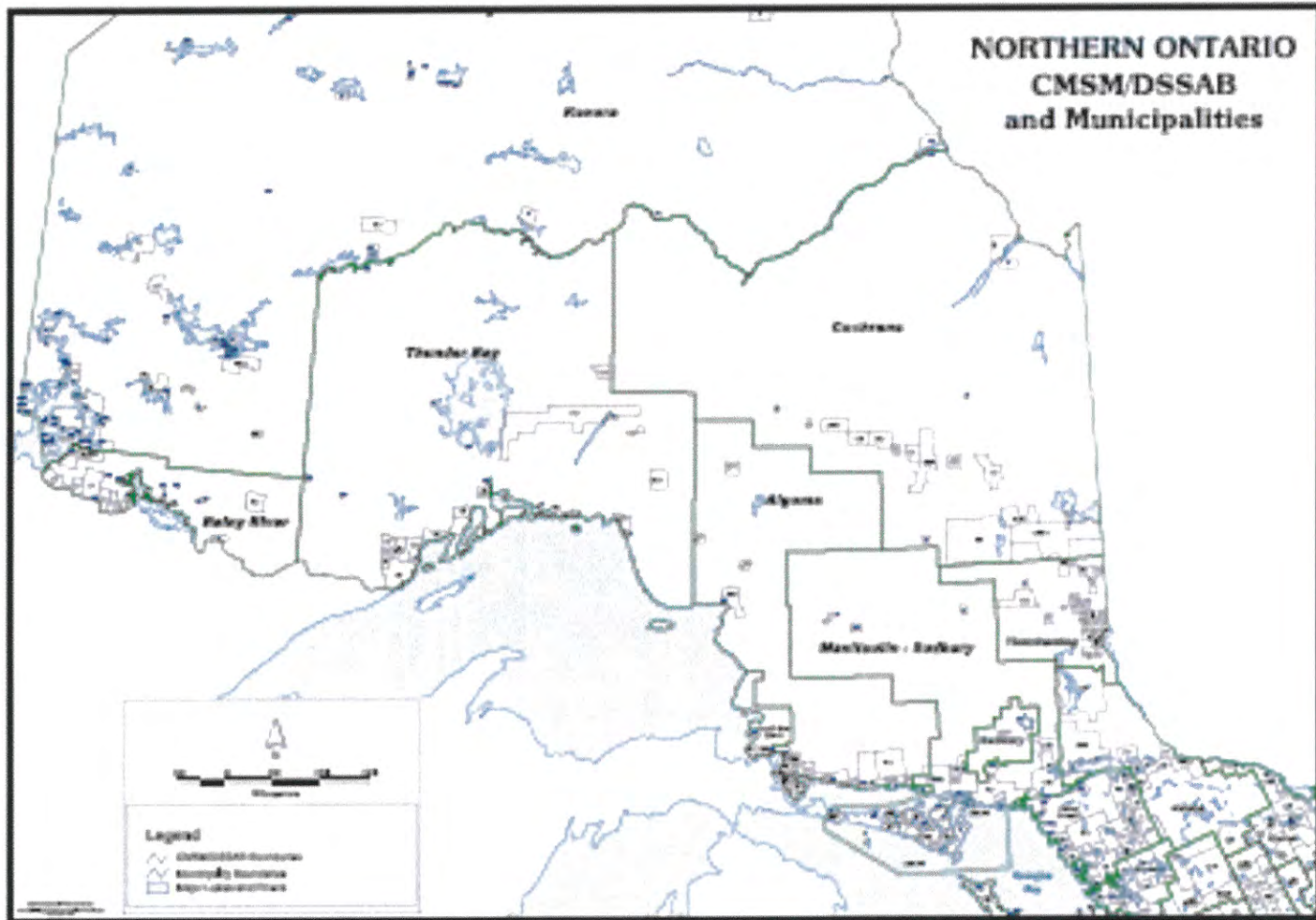
District of Sault Ste. Marie
Social Services Administration Board

PARRY SOUND



District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board

www.dtssab.com



Source: Manitowish-Sudbury DSSAB Website



Benefits Changes

- In spite of the Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy, the budget announced:
 - The elimination of the Community Start-Up & Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB).
 - The capping of both Health & Non-Health Related Discretionary Benefits.
 - The elimination of Home Repairs under Ontario Works & Ontario Disability Support Program.



NOSDA

CSUMB - Background

- The Community Start-Up Benefit becomes the Community Start-Up & Maintenance Benefit following the release of the “Walking on Eggshells” Report and the Rapid escalation of Homelessness and Energy poverty in Ontario.
- The issues that led to the CSUMB eligibility expansion have not been remedied, in fact the situation is more dire at the point when the program is eliminated.



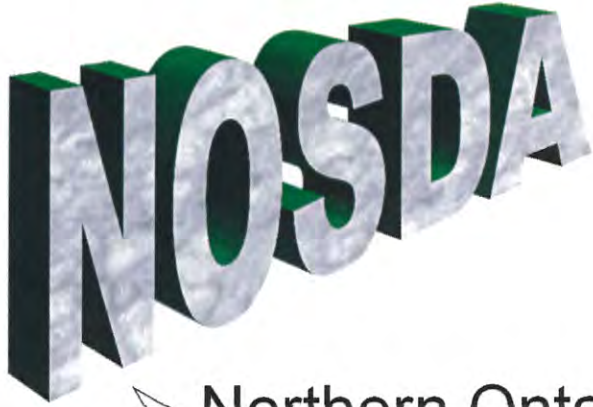
Discretionary Benefits

- Typically, discretionary benefits are used for:
 - Transportation purposes,
 - Health issues including emergency dental costs,
 - Household items.



Home Repairs

- The elimination of Home Repairs from OW & ODSP puts additional pressure on the DSSAB's Investing in Affordable Housing funding.
- The Federal RRAP program and the Provincial Home Repairs programs have now be “sunsetting” on a program that has a 3 year life span.
- The funding model – Deep Core Need – used by MMAH disadvantages northern communities.



Cumulative Impact

- Northern Ontario has seen continual or disproportionate cuts in the following areas:
 - The elimination of RRAP & Home repairs,
 - The implementation of Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Initiative,
 - The elimination of Community Employment Resource centres,
 - The implementation of Ontario Works Funding (though MCSS staff have worked hard to mitigate those impacts to date),
 - The elimination of the OW benefits,
 - The reductions to the OMPF.

NOSDA

Austerity & Fiscal Restraint

- DSSABs have been living under fiscal restraints since the Forestry industry collapsed at the start of the decade.
- DSSABs cannot afford to carry its own, as well as the Province's cost containment.
- Any further changes will lead to a further deterioration of health outcomes for low income northerners.



Our Situation

- DSSABs & member municipalities cannot be expected to fill needs that may be created with the change to CSUMB and the many other changes that have occurred and will have to live within the consolidated envelop.
- It won't be easy to turn away from those in need but like the province, we have to live within our means.



Lead Ministry

- NOSDA members are unclear on how to respond to these cumulative changes to our communities.
- It cannot just be expected that municipalities can step in and so we are looking to our Lead Ministry for DSSABs to engage us in dialogue on these policy decisions and to work together to mitigate the impact on our clients and communities.



Contact Information

www.nosda.net

Executive:

NOSDA Chair – Gary Scripnick (garyscripnick@ntl.sympatico.ca)

NOSDA Vice-Chair – Ian Angus (iangus@thunderbay.ca)

NOSDA Vice-Chair – Jim Whipple (whipple@dtssab.com)

Mailing Address:

NORTHERN ONTARIO SERVICE DELIVERERS ASSOCIATION

180 Brock Street

Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 3B