



**NORTHERN ONTARIO
SERVICE DELIVERERS ASSOCIATION**

October 9, 2014

Hon. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services
6th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1E9

Dear Minister Jaczek:

RE: District Social Services Administration Board

The Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association has had concerns over the ability to hold meetings in December due to the conflict between the end of term for Municipal councilors (November 30th) and the start of term for the DSSAB Board (January 1st). Since this issue has been outstanding since 2000, we want to ensure that it is addressed before the election in 2018 as it appears that it will not be addressed before this December.

The problem arises due to the fact that a municipal councilor term ends as of November 30th and the new council term begins as of December 1st. If the majority of the DSSAB Board members does not get reelected or do not seek reelection, then the existing DSSAB Board does not have quorum to meet in December. Due to accountability and transparency, we do not feel that a DSSAB should have a month where they could not be accountable to a publicly elected Board.

We understand the challenge that this poses to the Ministry. As a newly elected municipal council cannot meet until December 1st and they need to pass a resolution appointing councilors to the various regional Boards, including the DSSAB's, and then inform the DSSAB of the appointment, it is well into mid-December. By the time that the DSSAB contact the new Board appointees and arrange a meeting we are generally looking at January 1st which is why the existing Act and Regulation is written the way it is.

May we offer some possible solutions to correct this gap in the legislation:

- a) Change the end of term for municipal council from November 30th to November 15th. This would still allow the present council two weeks after the election to meet and finish off any business they need to before the new council takes over. The new council would then have to forward their appointees to the DSSAB Board by November 30th. This would allow the new DSSAB Board to meet in December. The start of term for the DSSAB Board would be December 1st instead of January 1st; or



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- b) Indicate in Regulation that the existing DSSAB Board may meet in December if a quorum of existing Board members successfully gets reelected in the municipal election. This way they are still official members of their municipal council and may act on their behalf. If there is not a quorum of reelected Board members then the Board may not meet in December and it would be the responsibility of the CAO to report to a new Board in January any issues that occurred in December; or
- c) Indicate in Regulation that a DSSAB Board cannot meet in December as the existing terms of municipal appointed Board members terms expire November 30th and the new Board cannot be appointed until January 1st. All activities of the DSSAB will be run by the CAO who will then report to the new Board in January any activities or issues that occurred in December that need a Board resolution or approval.

We received the attached correspondence from your staff indicating that this matter remains unresolved at the inter-ministerial level. We respectfully request that this matter be addressed at the earliest possible time. We would also be pleased to assist the Ministry in coming to a solution on this matter if the Ministry would find this helpful.

Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Scipnick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Scipnick, Chair

cc: Hon. Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing