

Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

Ministère des
Services sociaux
et communautaires



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May 15, 2017

Mayor Les Gamble
Chair of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board
210 Mead Blvd
Espanola, Ontario
P5E 1R9

Dear Mayor Gamble,

We are writing to provide an update on the status of the District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) governance and accountability review.

As you may be aware, the ministry sought input on key review parameters, including scope, engagement and timing, from the Northern Ontario Service Deliverer's Association and the executive of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM). We have also worked closely with our partners across ministries to ensure support and commitment to the review process and objectives.

We are pleased to confirm that we have now finalized parameters for the review and are currently working through formal procurement processes to secure a third-party reviewer by June 2017.

The reviewer will develop and implement a comprehensive consultation and stakeholder engagement plan, with in-person consultations expected to occur through summer and early-fall in each of the 10 districts. Consultations will include discussions with DSSAB board members and staff, and targeted information/discussion sessions with elected municipal representatives and TWOMO representatives. Municipalities will also have an opportunity to provide input through a formal, council-endorsed written submission. Other stakeholders and the public will also have an opportunity to provide input to the review.

We understand that it will be important to ensure Boards, staff, and municipal/TWOMO representatives have sufficient advance notice of consultation plans and timing to support full and meaningful engagement. We will work with the reviewer to make sure you stay informed and receive preparatory material (e.g. discussion and written submission guides), in advance of the consultation.

The ministry recently provided a short update on the review at the NOMA annual conference in Thunder Bay (April 26th) and the FONOM annual conference in North Bay (May 11th).

We are requesting that you share this information with all municipalities in your district.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Erin Hannah
Assistant Deputy Minister
Social Policy Development Division



Richard Steele
Assistant Deputy Minister
Social Assistance Operations Division

- c. Fern Dominelli, Chief Administrative Officer, Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB
- Anna Cain, Director, Ontario Works Branch
- Patti Redmond, Director, Social Assistance Service Delivery Branch