

Ministry of  
Community and  
Social Services

Ministère des  
Services sociaux  
et communautaires



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December 12, 2017

Mayor Les Gamble  
Chair of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board

Mr. Fern Dominelli  
Chief Administrative Officer

210 Mead Boulevard  
Espanola ON  
P5E 1R9

Dear Mayor Gamble and Mr. Dominelli:

We are writing to inform you about recently enacted regulatory amendments relating to the method of apportionment of costs for mandated services that may impact municipal levies in your district for 2018.

Effective December 11, 2017, the government has amended provincial regulations under the *District Social Services Administration Boards Act*, the *Ambulance Act*, and the *Housing Services Act, 2011*, such that:

For the period beginning December 11, 2017, and ending December 31, 2018, the board shall use the method of cost apportionment for Ontario Works, housing and land ambulance services that the board was using on December 10, 2017.

These provisions also apply to costs for child care services in districts where there is not otherwise an agreement in place among all municipalities respecting the method of apportionment for child care services.

These changes effectively freeze the method of apportionment (or apportionment formula) used in your district until January 1, 2019. The degree of impact on municipal levies will depend on whether or not the board was planning changes to the method of cost apportionment during the period of the freeze. Note: these changes do not freeze, or otherwise impact, total costs for mandated services during this period.

As you are aware, the ministry has engaged Optimus SBR to lead a review of the governance and accountability framework for DSSABs, including matters related to cost apportionment among municipalities. The review has included face to face consultations in all 10 districts with staff, boards and municipalities over September and October, as well as opportunities for written submissions, and the ministry is expecting to receive final recommendations on changes to improve the governance and accountability framework by December 31, 2017.

We know that board members and municipal councils give careful thought and attention to decisions related to apportionment of costs, and these decisions can be contentious, at times. We also appreciate that deliberations, and perceptions of fairness, related to apportionment are influenced by other core elements of the governance framework, including representation, voice, and transparency of decision-making.

MCSS and partner ministries are expecting that recommendations coming out of the Review will cover the spectrum of DSSAB governance and accountability issues, including apportionment, and will require analysis and implementation planning as part of work to bring forward options for government decision-making. These regulatory changes will provide certainty and stability on matters related to the apportionment of costs for all municipalities in the district, while the province undertakes this work.

We look forward to working with you, as we move ahead on next steps for the Review.

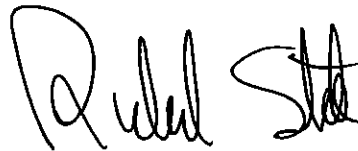
Please share this information with your board members and district members.

If you have any questions please feel to contact either one of us directly.

Sincerely,



Erin Hannah  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Social Policy Development Division



Richard Steele  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Social Assistance Operations Division

- c. Patricia Li, Assistant Deputy Minister, Direct Services Division, MOHLTC  
Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing Division, MHO  
Shannon Fuller, Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Years and Child Care Division, EDU  
Anna Cain, Director, Ontario Works Branch  
Patti Redmond, Director, Social Assistance Service Delivery Branch