



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JANUARY 20, 2025**

## **DNSSAB Available for Interviews During 2025 ROMA Conference**

The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) is currently participating in the 2025 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference alongside more than 1,600 participants from across the province. The conference is taking place in downtown Toronto from January 19 to 21, 2025.

Key presenters include Ontario Premier Doug Ford, opposition leaders, and provincial ministers. Keynote speakers at this year's event include political columnist Chantal Hébert who is passionate about Canadian politics, public policy, and matters of national interest, and Jordan Simmons, Co-founder and CEO of Nominee, discussing democracy and Canada's path forward after the 2024 US election.

ROMA Chair Christa Lowry and Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) President Robin Jones will also speak.

Concurrent sessions will focus on topics that are top-of-mind in rural communities, like fostering healthy local democracy, cyber security, community benefit agreements for energy and broadband projects, and managing municipal waste.

### **DNSSAB Delegation Meetings**

DNSSAB has secured the following delegation meetings at the 2025 ROMA Conference, seeking to address critical needs in the Nipissing District:

- **Ministry of Children, Communities and Social Services – Food Insecurity:**
  - Seeking increased social assistance rates, inflation-indexed Ontario Works rates, stable funding for food banks and community food programs, support for nutrition programs, and a collaborative approach to address poverty.
- **Ministry of the Solicitor General – Safety and Support:**
  - Seeking \$500,000 in annualized funding to cover security costs and additional grant opportunities to increase capacity and local health and social services programs and supports.
- **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (two-part delegation) – Housing and Homelessness Outreach:**
  - Presenting 182 shovel-ready housing units



- Requesting capital and operating funding to boost new housing development in Nipissing District
- Requesting \$313,000 in annualized funding for a mobile outreach team
- Requesting \$65,000 in one-time funding for a vehicle to provide District-wide support

“These delegations represent a significant opportunity for the DNSSAB to advocate for the needs of Nipissing District residents,” says DNSSAB Board Chair, Mark King.

“Being at the Conference has been an uplifting experience, surrounded by passionate municipal leaders from across our communities. The collaboration and commitment here truly reflect the heart of Ontario's regions and our shared vision for a brighter, more resilient future,” adds King.

During the conference, interviews can be accommodated by contacting [Brooke.Piercey@dnssab.ca](mailto:Brooke.Piercey@dnssab.ca).

All media are required to register in the VIP Room on the Concourse Level at the Sheraton Centre.

**About ROMA:** ROMA takes pride in promoting, supporting and enhancing strong and effective rural governments. About 270 of Ontario's 444 municipalities have populations of less than 10,000, while scores more are rural in character. The rural arm of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, ROMA advocates for policies and programs that will help build thriving rural Ontario communities.

For more information about ROMA or the 2025 Conference, contact:

Brian Lambie, ROMA Media Contact, 416-729-5425, [lambie@redbrick.ca](mailto:lambie@redbrick.ca)

Follow the conference on [LinkedIn](#) and on X at @ROMA\_Ont, Hashtag: #ROMA2025

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