District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board

Conseil d'administration des services sociaux du district de Nipissing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **November 26, 2026**

DNSSAB Outlines District-Wide Cold Weather Response for 2026–27

Shelter, outreach, and housing supports available

North Bay, ON: The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB), in collaboration with community partners, is implementing its district-wide cold weather response for the 2026–27 winter season. The plan includes expanded shelter capacity, transitional housing, cold weather overflow spaces, and outreach services to help people experiencing homelessness access shelter and supports during the colder months.

The district-wide response includes:

- **24/7 Integrated Shelter and Housing Supports:** Northern Pines offers shelter and housing programs operated by Crisis Centre North Bay, including the 24/7 Integrated Shelter and Housing Supports program, which provides space for up to 20 individuals, both during the day and overnight. The program began operating in its expanded temporary space on August 31, 2026, and offers housing-focused supports for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Learn more about the program on the Northern Pines webpage.

- **Access to Showers, Food, and Drinks**: Even when the shelter is at capacity, individuals can enter the shelter to warm up, have a coffee and snack, or take a shower. Staff can also help connect individuals with other available services and supports.

- **District-Wide Shelter Access:** Crisis Centre North Bay can assist with emergency shelter triaging and transportation arrangements for individuals and families in outlying communities when shelter space is available. Individuals are encouraged to call first to confirm shelter bed availability. Phone intake is available for those in outlying communities.

Individuals seeking low-barrier shelter services should attend the Low Barrier Shelter at 590 Chippewa Street West or call 705-316-1052.

Individuals not requiring low-barrier shelter services should attend the Four Elms Emergency Shelter at 1675 Cassells Street or call 705-474-1031.

All families and individuals with children will be triaged through the Four Elms Emergency Shelter.

- **Transitional Housing:** Northern Pines Phase 3 began operating as transitional housing in September 2026, providing 24 transitional housing spaces. This brings the total number of transitional housing units at Northern Pines to 60. Together with the expanded 24/7 Integrated Shelter and Housing Supports program, these additions represent a net increase of 20 new bed spaces at the site compared with last winter. Learn more about Northern Pines.

- **Cold Weather Overflow:** From November 1, 2026, to April 30, 2027, 15 additional double occupancy cold weather overflow spaces are prioritized for families with children. During Extreme Cold Weather Alerts, individuals and couples without children may also access these spaces when vacancies are available.

  Extreme Cold Weather Alerts are issued by the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit when temperatures are forecast to reach -15°C or colder, or wind chills are forecast to reach -20°C or colder.

- **District-Wide Outreach:** DNSSAB's Homelessness Outreach and Program Engagement (HOPE) team connects people experiencing homelessness with shelter, housing, and other supports throughout the district, where available. The team will also work in collaboration with DNSSAB's Community Paramedicine program to help identify health needs and connect individuals with appropriate supports during the winter months. The HOPE team can be reached at 705-474-2151 ext. 44673 (4-HOPE) or by email at outreach@dnssab.ca.

- **Emergency Homelessness Response:** Low Income People Involvement (LIPI) continues to provide emergency support and case management when multiple

households are at risk of homelessness due to events such as fires, floods, or building closures. LIPI helps these households find available community supports and other housing options.

DNSSAB continues to work with the Community Advisory Board, service providers, and other community partners to explore additional cold weather response options, including the potential availability of daytime spaces during periods of extreme cold.

About DNSSAB:
The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) is the service delivery agency for essential human services across the Nipissing District. These include the Coordinated Services of Ontario Works, Housing Services and Homelessness Services, Children's Services, and Paramedic Services. The jurisdiction of the DNSSAB covers a population of about 85,000 people, spread out over 17,000 square kilometres, 11 municipalities, two First Nations, and two unorganized areas – Nipissing North and Nipissing South. The Board is made up of 11 municipal councillors and one elected representative for the Territory Without Municipal Organization. The Board members exercise powers, duties, and responsibilities relating to the delivery of human services, while respecting the DSSAB Act and the Board's Procedural By-Laws and governance model. Shared responsibilities with the Province and municipalities are combined within the DNSSAB.

Learn more at dnssab.ca

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