

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 16, 2020

Nipissing Social Services Responds to the COVID-19 Pandemic

North Bay, ON - Please be advised that due to the serious nature of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) is taking the following measures.

Only **essential core services will continue**. These include:

- Issuing social assistance payments - Payments will not be disrupted but recipients are encouraged to set up direct bank deposit if they haven't already done so. Please call the DNSSAB office if you require assistance.
- All inquiries and applications are encouraged to be made by phone.
- Social Housing properties will continue to be maintained and health and safety issues will be addressed.

Services that **will NOT be available** for the time-being:

- Most child care centres have been temporarily closed and all EarlyOn programs are temporarily closed
- Face to face meetings will not be held
- The Career Hub located at City Hall will be closed
- All in-person workshops and training will be postponed

Alterations regarding staff levels are underway and staff will be working remotely where applicable.

"We are very aware of the seriousness of this pandemic and are, first and foremost, working to ensure the safety of our clients, staff and the community at large, while maintaining essential services," says DNSSAB Chair Mark King.

Anyone requiring social assistance asked to call 705-474-1923 or toll free at 1-877-319-5411. Anyone with inquiries for other services is asked to call the DNSSAB general number at 705-474-2151. In-person visits are discouraged except for emergency situations. As the situation evolves, further updates will be posted regularly on the DNSSAB website at www.dnssab.ca