



2023 Second Quarter Activity Report September 21, 2023

The following is the most recent consolidated Quarterly Report that the DSB will be sending to member municipalities and posting on the public website. Expect Quarterly Reports in February, May, September, and November of each year.

The program statistics are provided separately and updated monthly. They are available on the website by clicking the following link: [Monthly Program Statistics](#)

CAO Overview

The DSB 2023 Second Quarter (Unaudited) Financial Report was presented to the Board and projects a year-end municipal **surplus of \$300,644**. Ontario Works and Children's Services expenses are forecasted to be on budget. Community Housing is forecasted to be under budget by \$364,301. Paramedic Services is forecasted to be over budget by \$417,232. Interest revenue on non-reserve accounts is forecasted to be \$353,574 more than budgeted.

The DSB quarterly financial reports are available on the DSB website by clicking the following link: [Quarterly Financial Reports](#)

Paramedic Services

The following provides some insight into the major activities involving the Paramedic Services Department during the months of April, May & June of 2023.

Community Paramedicine (CP)

Our CP team staffing has stabilized thanks to a successful recruitment campaign. Onboarding is complete and our 3 new Community Paramedics are well on their way to completing their Community Paramedic Practitioner Training Program. We have also received notice that Ontario Health North will increase our base funding to support all the high intensity support services our team provides in going forward. All of this on the heels of the Provincial Government's [announcement](#) that the Community Paramedicine for Long Term Care funding will continue for another 2 years beyond April of 2024.

Non-Urgent Patient Transportation Services

As the Collective Agreement (CA) had expired on December 31, 2022, we had scheduled several days of bargaining to arrive at a tentative agreement. We signed a tentative settlement on June 5th (4th day of bargaining) and both sides were able to ratify the CA by the second week in June. The Union and the Employer are now working on finalizing a document in order to execute the terms therein. This includes the creation of Full-Time full-time positions with a stable, sustainable scheduling model.

Spring Recruitment

Like several other Paramedic Services across the province, our service is being impacted by the staffing crisis. Although we have seen a modicum of success with our open posting for regular part-time Paramedics, we unfortunately had zero applicants this past spring where historically we would have seen anywhere from 60 to 90 applicants. We have managed to sporadically onboard new recruits as applications are received, however these “one offs” are not sufficient to adjust for expected and unexpected attrition rates. Our active recruitment campaign is in full force, and we are hopeful it will prove successful in attracting potential recruits in the months and years to come.

Integrated Human Services

The following provides some insight into the Integrated Human Services Department during the months of April, May & June of 2023.

Children’s Services

In the second quarter, the average enrollment in licensed child care was 562 children, 452 full fee and 110 subsidized. Compared to last quarter there has been a 0.2% increase and compared to last year at this time, enrollment has increased by 7.5%.

The waitlist for licensed childcare at the end of the second quarter is 432 children. The highest waitlist are ages 0-5 years. The demand for licensed child care has been high for some time and will likely continue to see an increase as licensed child care has become more affordable under the new CWELCC System. This has been exasperated by workforce shortages which are preventing child care providers from meeting current needs in their communities.

The number of total visits to EarlyON Child & Family Centres by parents/caregivers and children was 3032, and the total activity kits provided was 32. Compared to last quarter the number of visits increased by 4%, activity kits provided decreased by 64%. Compared

to last year at this time, number of visits increased by 31%, and activity kits provided decreased by 93%.

The Manitoulin Sudbury Network for Children and Families Strategic Planning

The Manitoulin-Sudbury Network for Children and Families has come together to build upon to the common goals of influencing positive change that benefit children, families, and communities.

The importance of the early learning system has risen as a national and provincial priority. Regional demands for childcare spaces have surpassed the ability of the child care providers to fulfil them due to staffing shortages.

The Network seeks to address system-wide critical challenges, improve professionalism, parent, and community engagement, and raise the quality standards. The Network has acknowledged the unique barriers of the communities we serve, and the support needed for communities as being a critical component to develop an integrated network system. The first planning session was held in April, and the second in June with three sessions to follow for the balance of the year.

Local Service Providers Networks

The Service Providers Networks work collaboratively to promote and facilitate the coordination of children's services for families and children in the Lacloche, Manitoulin, Sudbury East, and Sudbury North districts.

Local Service Provider Networks (LSPN) have been very active during the second Quarter this year. Each of the LSPN's have hosted [Family Fun Screening Days](#) in their respective areas. These events were put on pause during the pandemic and were well attended by families and children who enjoyed the activities.

Mosaic of Marks Exhibit

The [Mosaic of Marks Exhibit](#) was held in Sudbury from April 16 to May 14, 2023. The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB in partnership with the City of Greater Sudbury were fortunate to be chosen as one of the three selected sites for the exhibit in Ontario, the other two sites were in Toronto and Ottawa.

Educators, students, parents, and all interested members of the community were welcomed and invited to work together to elevate the view of the child in our culture. There were over 1000 visitors to the exhibit. The visitors said that the exhibit changed their views. Many committed to spending more time listening to young children as they draw and tell their stories.

2023 Licensed Child Care Data Collection

A [memo](#) was received on April 11, 2023 from MEDU informing staff of the launch of its annual survey. Information is collected directly from licensed child care licensees on hours of operation, child enrolment, parent fees, fee subsidies, and staff wages.

Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care

The Ministry released a high-level [discussion paper](#) on April 5, 2023, proposing the conceptual framework for the 2024 CWELCC funding formula with an opportunity to provide feedback. Staff prepared a submission indicating there is not enough information to fully capture what might be missing and potential impacts based on a benchmark approach. An [Issue Report](#) was presented to the Board on May 18, 2023.

A [memo](#) was received from MEDU on May 24, 2023 providing further information regarding CWELCC allocations that will support fee reduction, workforce compensation and administration in alignment with Service System Managers Directed Growth Plan for 2023.

On June 7, 2023 a [memo](#) from MEDU provided updated [CWELCC guidelines](#), a Start Up Grant Sample application form and a finalized [Access and Inclusion Framework](#) to support the development of local plans.

Proposed Amendment to O. Reg. 138/15 of the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA)

On June 14, 2023, a [memo](#) was received informing that the ministry is seeking feedback on a proposed draft amendment to Ontario Regulation 138/15 under the CCEYA. The proposal would require Service System Managers to process applications for financial assistance with the cost of a child care service based on the date the application was received and to work cross-jurisdictionally to facilitate access to care. This change will not impact our process, we already process based on date of application.

Ontario Works

In the second quarter of 2023, the Ontario Works/Temporary Care Caseload average was 507. Compared to last year at this time, the caseload has decreased by 0.97%.

Centralized Intake

132 applications were received by the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board in the second quarter of 2023. Of the 132 applications received, 63 were granted by the Intake and Benefits Administration Unit (IBAU), 34 were referred by the IBAU to the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB for processing, and 15 were transfers from another Ontario Works (OW) office. The remaining 20 applications were processed at the local office as certain applications, are not yet being processed by the IBAU or there are extenuating circumstances which require the applications to be completed locally.

The initial goal of Centralized Intake was to have 70% of applications completed by the IBAU. During the second quarter of 2023, 48% of applications were completed by the IBAU.

Employment Services Transformation

On June 28, 2023, FONOM/NOMA/NOSDA wrote a [letter](#) to Minister McNaughton with concerns regarding the Employment System Transformation. While the groups support the concept of Service System Management, there are some concerns over the implementation in the North. The Ministry plans to use the 15 economic regions in Ontario which would allow for only two Service System Managers in the North where the population is spread across a large geographic area.

In addition to the large geographic area, transportation systems in the North pose challenges for travel to education, training, and employment with only 9 of the 144 municipalities with a transit system.

The province plans to negotiate employment performance zones with the successful Service System Managers as they set their performance targets. FONOM/NOMA/NOSDA are asking the province to consult with them as well due to the uniqueness of the region. The determination of the employment performance zones will be critical to the success of Employment Transformation in Northern Ontario

Employment Ontario

The Employment Services (ES), Youth Job Connect (YJC) and Youth Job Connect Summer (YJCS) programs continue to be advertised and delivered from the Chapleau office.

From April to June 2023:

- There were 7 new registrations for Employment Services and 12 files were closed for various reasons including 8 for employment.
- There were 2 new registrations for the YJC program.
- Training for YJCS was completed in May and there were 16 new registrations. 12 of the 16 registrants completed their training. There are currently five individuals placed with employers.
- 389 individuals and 12 employers were assisted by Employment Services.

Community Housing

Waiting list (Applicants)

Total applications at the end of the second quarter are 854. The applicant breakdown is as follows:

1 Bedroom	666	2 Bedroom	89
3 Bedroom	59	4 bedroom	40

Direct Shelter Subsidy (DSS)

Staff continue to identify and complete the application process with eligible applicants for the DSS program. All applicants receiving the benefit are deemed housed. As of the end of this quarter there were 199 active DSS recipients. At the end of Q1 of this year there were 196 recipients and at this time last year there were 214.

Income Mixing

Per DSB Policy, every effort is being made where the waitlist allows us to mix the Community Housing Buildings with RGI, Affordable and Market Rent Tenants. As of the end of this quarter we have successfully secured 11 market rent tenants and 106 affordable rent tenants. This represents 4% and 39% of our portfolio. This represents an increase of 2 market rent tenants and 7 affordable from last quarter. Last year at this time we had 11 market rent tenants (4%) and 92 affordable (33%)

Smoke Free Housing – Unit Count-down

As of the end of the 2nd quarter of 2023, 200/275 of the portfolio's units are designated as Smoke-free. This represents 72% of the full portfolio currently. Units are designated as turnover occurs.

Housing and Homelessness Plan – Year Eight Update

Through the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) and with the passing of the Housing Services Act (HSA), 2011, the Province completed the devolution of Ontario's affordable housing to municipalities.

The Province required the development of a [10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan](#) to reflect certain principles or 'interests' that the government had prescribed in addition to considering and responding to local needs.

The year [eight report](#) highlights how the DSB has been working towards each goal set out in the Housing and Homelessness Plan. Reports on all eight years are posted on our website.

Homelessness Prevention Program Investment Plan (HPP)

In May the Board approved the [Homelessness Prevention Program \(HPP\) Investment Plan Issue Report](#). The [investment plan](#) requires staff to forecast and outline spending of HPP funds in the upcoming fiscal year, across the following categories: Community Outreach and Support Services, Emergency Shelter Solutions, Housing Assistance, Supportive Housing Capital and Administration.

Services and activities will continue to prioritize keeping seniors in their own homes and continuing to provide a direct shelter subsidy to assist those on the Community Housing wait list maintain their current accommodations without accessing their basic needs.

The Homelessness Prevention Program is monitored closely to assess the number of households accessing benefits. Partnerships will continue with Canadian Mental Health Association to provide on-site supports to prevent homelessness and to work with the most vulnerable throughout our district.

Staff will continue to take part in the Rapid Mobilization Table in Espanola and Sudbury East. Community partnerships will continue to support transitional housing support for people with Mental Health and Substance Abuse needs.

Continued support will be provided to our local foodbanks throughout the district, food security challenges have been identified in all parts of the district. Support is also provided to local foodbanks to expand services to Youth and Homeless individuals in more remote areas.

With the Ministry's approval, the Supportive Housing funding will be pooled over three years to construct a new supportive housing facility in Espanola. The centralized wait list and By-Name list demonstrate that a mix of one- and two-bedroom supportive units are needed in Espanola.

Staff have developed and continue to grow the "Change Team". The Change Team is comprised of community partners who provide a variety of human service supports, including but not limited to Criminal Justice, Crisis, Mental Health & Substance Abuse, and Cultural Supports. Through continuous and ongoing growth of the Change Team staff and community partners gain and share knowledge of services available to BNL participants.

Little Current Project – New Build

The project in [Little Current](#) has progressed rapidly since last quarter. The pod interiors are completed and appliances in place. There are minor interior touch ups to be done and contractor cleaning. Staff have been on site for a tour and to collect relevant documents for appliances and heating systems. Applicants are now being screened for units.

Capital Projects with Housing Services Corporation

Manitoulin

The Scheduled Electrical Work for Little Current and Manitowaning is now complete with little disruption to the residents.

Balcony repairs and rehabilitation in Little Current and Manitowaning have also been completed.

In Mindemoya, a contractor has been procured and work on the balcony will commence next quarter.

Lacloche-Manitoulin

The Roof Replacements in Espanola and Gore Bay have been completed.

There are 2 new tenders either in progress or submitted for a study of the Make Up Air Handlers and the Administrative Office HVAC systems as well as the review of the Gogama Base for possible Asbestos Abatement.

Work Orders

In Q2 a total of 249 Work Orders were generated: 196 for Community Housing; 11 for Administration Offices, and 42 for Paramedic Services. There was a total of 138 Work Orders closed or resolved during that time. There were 9 work orders for unit turnovers; 1 family unit and 8 for apartments. Work orders are closed if the work is done in-house, or when the invoice is paid from an outside source.

Provincial Funding

In June the Board approved the [Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative \(COCHI\), and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative \(OPHI\) Issue Report](#) outlining the Investment Plan in principle to be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing once the template is released.

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