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NEW INCOME AND POVERTY REPORT SETS BASELINE FOR FUTURE WORK

North Bay, ON: The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) has completed the first in a series of reports on Income and Poverty in Nipissing District.

Using the latest information from Statistics Canada's 2021 census, the analysis looks at the distribution of income sources, the prevalence of low income, and a comparison of Social Assistance income. This report further informs the Board's advocacy, policy development, planning and service delivery across the District as DNSSAB pursues its corporate strategy and vision for *healthy and sustainable communities*.

The findings reference the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic where the majority (89%) of Nipissing's population received some amount of government income which was a steep increase from 73.6% in the previous census. This increase was also observed at the national and provincial level and is largely attributed to the government's COVID-19 pandemic emergency and recovery benefits, which were widespread across the population.

The median social assistance income (Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program) captured by the census is \$11,400, which is less than one-third the median income for single households (no dependent children) in the district's general population. Additionally, 8.0% of Nipissing's population receives social assistance, which is close to twice that of the province (4.4%). There is a large difference in government transfer income within geographic areas of the District itself, with 15.3% of East Ferris households receiving this type of income compared with Mattawa where about one-third of income comes from government transfers. The areas with the highest prevalence of low income in the province, determined by using one of the national low-income measures, include Nipissing and seven other districts in Northern Ontario.

The income study and future reports in the series are based on the most recent information and data available and set the stage for the Board continuing to take action on the corporate strategy and long-term goals, which include removing systemic barriers, providing seamless access, and maximizing human service impact.

The full [Income and Poverty in Nipissing District, Report #1](#) can be found on the DNSSAB website.