

Social Assistance Program
Policy Branch
Social Assistance Programs
Division

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February 07, 2020

Dear Mayor Rochefort and members of Council:

Thank you for writing to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services regarding the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) apportionment formula. It has been forwarded to me for response.

I understand your concerns about increasing levy costs and would encourage you to follow-up with the Chief Administrative Officer to understand your board budget decision-making and cost apportionment.

The Board sets service levels and municipal costs for each ministry mandated service areas (e.g., child care, social housing, Ontario Works and land ambulance).

Once total municipal costs are determined, the Board levies those costs out to member municipalities according to an established cost apportionment formula. There may be several factors that could cause an increase or decrease of municipal levies.

In response to your request for the ministry to conduct a review of the *DSSAB Act*, the ministry has recently completed reviews of its DSSAB governance and accountability framework. Those reviews included consultations across the 10 districts and facilitated discussions with the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) and the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA).

In December 2019, the ministry released the review report noting that overall the system of governance within DSSABs is working well and that Boards and municipalities can and do work together to respond to local needs. The report also noted that any structural changes by the ministry could upset the collaborative system that exists now.

We acknowledge that we can do better to support effective governance. We have committed to working with our DSSAB stakeholders and partner ministries in 2020 to finalize the *DSSAB Accountability and Governance guidelines* and explore other

opportunities to support transparency and accountability of the Boards and ensure they are supported and functioning well.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns. I encourage you to continue working with your Board members and staff for the best interest of all the communities and citizens you serve.

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

[original signed by]

Laura Belfie

Director, Social Assistance Program Policy Branch