



Report To:	Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board
From:	Donna Moroso, Director of Integrated Social Services and Rhonda McCauley, Social Housing Program Supervisor
Date:	January 24, 2019
Re:	Good Neighbour Program – Issue Report

Purpose:

To inform the Board on a new partnership initiative that will enhance the well-being and independence of persons with intellectual disabilities in our community. This partnership will involve Community Living Espanola (CLE), Developmental Services Ontario (DSO), and the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB).

Background:

The recent changes to the Long-Term Housing Strategy is initiating a new way of thinking for housing providers and community service providers to support vulnerable people in obtaining and retaining housing. Several unique and custom projects have been undertaken to meet the unique needs of communities to best serve clients in ways that stretch the boundaries of former programs and services.

In October 2018 Service Managers in the Province received a [joint memo](#) from the Director of Program Policy Implementation - Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), and the Director, Housing Programs Branch - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) urging all staff to jointly consider solutions for persons with developmental disabilities.

In 2015 the Developmental Services Housing Task Force identified that over 12,000 adults in Ontario with developmental disabilities needed housing and were tasked with finding solutions. There were 10 innovative housing solutions that were chosen from the 80 submissions that may provide a model for housing across the province.

There are significant wait lists within Ontario for residential supports for people with developmental disabilities, and many of these people are on social housing waiting lists. The former model of host family support has seen a decline in willing applicants resulting in a lack of housing options for this unique clientele.

This initiative afforded a unique opportunity to offer housing for vulnerable populations to receive services that provide a combination of wrap-around supports while providing best use of collaborative funding dollars.

Developmental Services Ontario contacted the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB and Community Living Espanola to discuss these initiatives and present an opportunity for a unique partnership in the North using our varied resources.

The overarching concept of the program is to have a resident, or residents who have developmental disabilities reside in a rental unit in the DSB Portfolio, while a monitor will live in a unit separately and provide supports outside of the Supported Independent Living (SIL) program (i.e. over-night and on an as needed basis).

The Pilot is recommended for a period of 1-year. The end of the Pilot does not result in the end of either tenancy or supports but will result in a review of the successes and challenges throughout this partnership between Community Living Espanola and the DSB.

Each organization will play a role in the program as outlined below;

Community Living Espanola

- Identify potential eligible program participants
- Screen as required
- Identify and provide SIL program supports
- Assist the individual with securing any additional supports
- Ensure Passport Funding is in pay
- Monitor participant participation and continued eligibility, reporting
- Conduct screening of Monitor as per current processes, policies and procedures
- Arrange Monitor Contract
- Provide Monitor training

Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB

- Facilitate application and housing eligibility criteria in partnership with Community Living Espanola for both tenant and tenant monitor
- Provide unit and determine unit rent for tenant
- Maintain and service unit, appliances and services as provided
- Facilitate any accommodation needs that are within the ability of the DSB and the building composition, within reason
- Set unit rent for monitor and determine any rent supplements

Developmental Services Ontario

- Provide support for the project in kind
- Loan of necessary technological equipment
- Review and vet waiting applicants
- Liaise with Provincial Ministry

The proposed Pilot will see 2 units in the portfolio being utilized for this program in the LaCloche area. The unit of the monitor will be leased at market rent. The second unit will be rented to the Community Living Resident at an Affordable Rent that will be subsidized with Direct Shelter Subsidy (DSS) program to make the unit affordable to the housing applicant per our DSS policy. This will meet current program priorities of income mixing within each community.

Conclusion:

This Pilot supports the DSBs Housing and Homelessness Plan, additional collaborative partnerships, waiting list reduction of 2 organizations. The Good Neighbour Initiative will house a person with developmental disabilities, with supports to allow for independence from Group Home living, with little to no cost to all participating organizations.

Staff are asking for the Board to approve this new partnership as we move forward with this exciting new initiative that could provide additional opportunities in future for vulnerable populations within our communities.