



## **KENORA DISTRICT MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION**

**SUBJECT:** Reaching Home Community – Kenora District

**SUBMITTED BY:** Kenora District Services Board **YEAR:**  
2024

### **BACKGROUND:**

On June 11, 2018, the Government of Canada announced its strategy to reduce chronic homelessness by 50% over the next ten years. “Reaching Home” became a redesign of Canada’s Homelessness Strategy and replaced the Homelessness Partnering Strategy on April 1, 2019.

“Reaching Home” is now supported and funded through Infrastructure Canada.

At the time of KDSB’s submission to become a Designated Community in 2019, there were 61 programs across Canada funded through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy program: one being the United Way Simcoe County as the small and rural Designated Community.

A Call for Concept was released by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) (Today it’s Infrastructure Canada), on February 8, 2019, with a submission deadline of March 8, 2019. “The objective of this step was to invite communities outside of Quebec and the territories with a population size of 25,000 and over (based on Census 2016) to demonstrate the need for long term stable federal homelessness funding.

Given that not one community in the District of Kenora has a population size of 25,000 and over, the KDSB worked with and brought together District communities in order to submit one proposal for the District as a District Community.

In the end, KDSB was successful and awarded the designation and recognized as a designated Reaching Home Community for the District in 2019. The Board of Directors entered into an agreement with Canada as a Reaching Home Community from 2020-2024.

The KDSB’s Reaching Home funding for 2020-2024 was as follows:

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total:
Based Funding	\$244,326	\$377,782	\$377,782	\$377,782	\$1,377,672



Supplemental                                      \$467,595      \$400,172      \$396,311      \$1,264,078

Total Funding	\$244,326	\$845,377	\$777,954	\$774,093	\$2,641,750
---------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-------------

On November 28, 2023, the KDSB was notified by Infrastructure Canada that our community Reaching Homes funding allocations for 2024-2028 would be as follows:

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Total:
Based Funding	\$377,782	\$377,782	\$377,782	\$377,782	\$1,511,128
Supplemental	\$364,342	\$364,342	\$0	\$0	\$728,684
Total Funding	\$742,124	\$742,124	\$377,782	\$377,782	\$2,239,812

The funding decrease is a significant concern for the KDSB given how little the funding allocation was to begin with and how much expectation has been created by the communities since the designation of KDSB being a Designated Community.

Should the allocations for 2026-27 and 2027-28 remain as they are, the KDSB will be forced into a position in which it will need to decide which community programs and services need to be reduced or have funding cut for. This is a decision that the Board of Directors should not have to make given how much of the homelessness being experienced in the District is the result of failed Federal policy.

## RECOMMENDATION:

**WHEREAS** the Government of Canada announced its strategy and commitment to reduce chronic homelessness by 50% by 2027/28.

**WHEREAS** the Reaching Home program is community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness as part of Canada's homelessness Strategy.

**WHEREAS** The District of Kenora has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest Child Poverty rate of all the Ontario Federal Election Districts. 6,150 children were living in poverty in 2019, or 33.5% of all children.

**WHEREAS** The waiting list for housing with the Kenora District Services Board has increased by 222% since 2013 to 1,451 households waiting for housing.

**WHEREAS** the District has seen a 305% increase in seniors and the elderly on the waiting list for housing with the Kenora District Services Board since 2013.

**WHEREAS** the District of Kenora has some of the highest rates of homelessness in Canada.



**NOW THEREFORE MAY IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Kenora District Municipal**

**Association** requests that the Minister of Infrastructure Canada amend the Reaching Home allocation formula for the District of Kenora to reflect that significant challenges being face by the communities when it comes to homelessness and the housing crisis; and further

**THAT** the Minister of Infrastructure Canada prevent the funding decreases being proposed for the District otherwise the community programs and shelters will be forced to reduce services and potential be forced to close.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

**CONVENTION ACTION**

**Concurrence**\_\_\_\_\_

**Concurrence**\_\_\_\_\_

**Concurrence as Amended**\_\_\_\_\_

**Concurrence as Amended**\_\_\_\_\_

**Non-Concurrence**\_\_\_\_\_

**Non-Concurrence**\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
KDMA President