



For Immediate Release
February 26, 2019

A holistic approach to Bail Residency Programming

The Ne-Chee Friendship Centre in partnership with Kenora District Services Board (KDSB), and Kenora Chiefs Advisory, would like to address the status of Bail Residency programming in Kenora.

On August 1, 2018, the Kenora District Services Board assumed ownership of the former Northland supportive housing building on Matheson Street but did not assume the identity of the Northland. The programming which formerly took place under the Northland received a comprehensive overhaul and is now known as Kenora's Bail Residency Program and is administered by the Ne-Chee Friendship Centre. The Kenora Chiefs Advisory is on-site Monday through Friday to provide Mental Health and Addictions programs and supports to participants of the program.

The Ne-Chee Friendship Centre operates the Bail Verification and Supervision (BVSP) Program as well as the Bail Residency Program which work in conjunction with each other. "The Program works within the conditions set by the court. Referrals for the program come directly from the lawyers to the BVSP staff and only if the participant is deemed suitable to participate, can they be eligible to participate in the program," says Patti Fairfield, Executive Director of the Ne-Chee Friendship Centre.

"The community of Kenora experiences a disproportionate amount of bail violations related to breaching the rules of residency, a substantial factor was the lack of proper, culturally appropriate supports," says Henry Wall, Chief Administrative Officer of the KDSB. "The Bail Residency Program provides a new identity and approach that allows us to improve the way individuals are supported and access services. Bail Programming in Kenora has undergone a significant change with the goal of improving the health and wellness of those involved in the judicial system and fostering safer community outcomes."

The Ne-Chee Friendship Centre will be hosting a Lunch and Learn from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm at Level 1-Kenora Courthouse, 216 Water Street on Thursday, February 28. This is an informal gathering to speak to the revitalized program and answer any questions that the public may have. Pizza will be provided, and all are welcome to attend.

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