



For Immediate Release  
January 29, 2019

### **Supports and services update in wake of extreme cold warning**

The Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) in partnership with the Ne-Chee Friendship Centre and the Kenora Fellowship Centre, would like to provide an update on supports and services and the emergency shelter for those who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, as an extreme cold warning has been issued for Kenora and the Region.

The emergency shelters last day of operation in the basement of the Northwestern Health Unit will be Thursday, January 31, 2019. The new service hub, located within Knox United Church will begin operations on Friday, February 1, 2019. Initially, the shelter will operate from 8:00 pm – 8:00 am to accommodate the remaining renovations that are needed. The Service Hub will begin operating 24/7 by March 1, 2019, allowing time for staff and the community partner's adequate time to adjust to the new building.

The KDSB and the Kenora Fellowship Centre will extend their service agreement that supports the Fellowship Centre in the temporary increase of resources to expand its current meal programming. The Kenora Fellowship Centre will continue to operate at this capacity until the new service hub is running 24/7. The Fellowship Centre will continue to operate its daily Drop-in centre where people have a warm place to go during the day. Should the emergency shelter have an overflow of people due to the extreme weather, the Fellowship Centre will provide a place to sleep, and doors will open at 8:30 pm. "We have been very concerned with the extreme weather and the impact it has been having on the people we serve. We are thankful for the support as we have been offering the overflow space for people needing a place to sleep and continuing to provide care where it is needed," says Yvonne Bearbull, Executive Director of the Kenora Fellowship Centre.

"The KDSB appreciates that the Fellowship Centre will continue to offer fundamental support services to those facing homelessness in the coldest months of the year and during this time of transition," says Henry Wall, Chief Administrative Officer of the KDSB. "The new service hubs top priority upon opening on February 1 will be supporting those in need with a warm, safe place to be."



For Immediate Release

January 29, 2019

Supports and services update in wake of extreme cold warning  
page 2

Following the shelters February 1 opening date, the Ne-Chee Friendship Centre will transition into full operations, offering a variety of supports and services for those who access what will then become a service hub. "Ne-Chee Friendship Centre is looking forward to offering its services and expanding upon its supports in the new building to ensure that those in need have supports anytime that they should need them," says Patti Fairfield, Executive Director of Ne-Chee Friendship Centre.

The KDSB, the Ne-Chee Friendship Centre and the Kenora Fellowship Centre would like to extend their thanks to those who will access the services of the new 24/7 facility for your patience with the delayed opening. We acknowledge the harsh conditions you are facing and strongly encourage you to access the resources available to you at this time.

Once fully operational, the Service Hub will provide access to wrap-around supports and services that will help those in need through a system of care that involves a variety of community sectors with one intention: supporting the end of homelessness.

~30~

Media Contact:  
Roberta Lappage  
Communications Officer  
Kenora District Services Board  
(807) 223-2100 x 2474  
[rlappage@kdsb.on.ca](mailto:rlappage@kdsb.on.ca)