



For Immediate Release
August 4, 2021

Student and Family Housing to be built in Sioux Lookout to support youth in reaching their full learning potential

Following the announcement made on behalf of Infrastructure Canada on August 3, 2021, the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) and Windigo First Nations Council (WFNC) are pleased to announce that in partnership, we are moving forward on the development of a Student and Family Housing project for Indigenous youth who leave their First Nation communities to pursue their education dreams in Sioux Lookout. This housing will better support students to reach their full learning potential. The project is being funded by both Federal and Provincial governments.

“For many Indigenous youth that live in remote First Nation communities, choosing to continue their education by attending high school means leaving their home, their family, and their sense of community to do so in one of the District of Kenora’s municipalities. Together, we must do better to support Indigenous students in attaining academic achievement levels compared to the general student population in Ontario,” says Henry Wall, Chief Administrative Officer of the KDSB. He adds, “Every student in Ontario deserves equity and opportunity to access a good education; Indigenous students should be no exception.”

"We continue to be proud of the courage our young students and their families possess to complete their secondary education away from home. We feel blessed to have this opportunity and appreciate the hard work KDSB has made to keep this project moving in a positive direction. Windigo is excited to provide a comfortable and safe environment to help our students succeed," says Frank McKay, Council Chair and Chief Executive Officer of Windigo First Nations Council.

The KDSB and WFNC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in 2018. Student and family housing was identified as a critical priority to move forward. Sioux Lookout Student and Family Housing will provide a guardian for students from their home community that will live on-site to provide support, safety, and a home-like atmosphere during the school year. The development will house sixteen units for students and four units for guardians.



For Immediate Release

August 4, 2021

Student and Family Housing to be built in Sioux Lookout to support youth in reaching their full learning potential

Page 2

Keewatin-Aski Ltd has been selected as the project architect and Finnway General Contractor Inc. has been awarded the building contract. Construction on the property will begin in the coming weeks in the Boreal Trails subdivision of Sioux Lookout.

~30~

Media Contact:

Roberta Lappage

Communications Officer

Kenora District Services Board

(807) 223-2100 x 2474

rlappage@kdsb.on.ca