# AGENDA

**Manitouwadge Regular Council**
**Wednesday, July 8, 2026**
**7:00 PM in the Council Chambers**

**Livestream Available at:**
**Youtube**

Page

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **01** | **CALL TO ORDER** | |
| **02** | **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA** | |
| **03** | **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF** | |
| **04** | **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** | |
| **05** | **DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS** | |
| 01 | Presentation from Ken Ranta, CEO, Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board regarding Programs and Services in Manitouwadge.<br>Township of Manitouwadge Presentation July 8, 2026 | 4 - 30 |
| **06** | **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** | |
| 01 | Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held June 10, 2026.<br>Regular Council - 10 Jun 2026 - Minutes - Pdf | 31 - 36 |
| **07** | **PETITIONS** | |
| **08** | **CORRESPONDENCE** | |
| **09** | **REPORTS AND COMMITTEES** | |
| 01 | Minutes of the Meeting: Thunder Bay District Health Unit Board of Health held May 20, 2026. | 37 - 42 |

Meeting Minutes - Thunder Bay District Health Unit Board of Health May 20 2026

## 10 VERBAL UPDATE BY MAYOR

## 11 VERBAL UPDATE BY CAO

## 12 BUSINESS

01 Administration Report TR2026-05 submitted by Aaron MacGregor, Treasurer regarding 2026 Tax Arrears Report and Recommendations. 43 - 45

THAT Council authorizes Administration to register tax arrears certificates for the recommended properties if Administration deems such action appropriate for collection of tax arrears, and

THAT Council authorizes Administration to vest the properties for which tax sales were unsuccessfully conducted on May 28th, 2026, if Administration seems such action appropriate for collection of tax arrears.

TR2026-05 - Pdf

02 Correspondence from The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) regarding the Endorsement of The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board's 2026 AMO Conference Briefing Package. 46 - 68

**RESOLVED THAT:**Council is in receipt of correspondence from the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB); and further,

**THAT** Council endorses the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference briefing package.

LTR to Manitouwadge Enclosing 2026 AMO Position Papers 2026Jun23
RES 26-32A 2026 3 AMO Position Papers
RES 26-32B 2026 1 AMO Position Paper
TBDSSABxAMO2026_COCHI-OPHI Position Paper
TBDSSABxAMO2026_Indigenous Housing Stock Position Paper
TBDSSABxAMO2026_OW Income Exemptions Position Paper
TBDSSABxAMO2026_Supportive Housing Position Paper

## 13 BYLAWS

01 **Being a Bylaw to** Appoint a Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) for the Township of 69

Manitouwadge.
By-law Appoint a CEMC 2026 S Trach

## 14 MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

## 15 CLOSED SESSIONS

01 Section 239(2)(b): personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

- CAO Performance Review

02 Section 239(2)(b): personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

- Manitouwadge Recreation Trails Advisory Committee Member Appointment - One (1) Northern Trails Ski Club Member Vacancy

## 16 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION

## 17 CONFIRMATORY BYLAW

01 **Being a Bylaw to** Confirm Proceedings of the Council of the Township of Manitouwadge at its Regular Meeting held Wednesday, July 8, 2026. 70
Confirmatory Bylaw July 8, 2026

## 18 ADJOURNMENT

# Township of Manitouwadge Presentation

**Ken Ranta, CEO**

July 8, 2026

THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

# Presentation Overview

- About TBDSSAB
- Legislation
- Programs
  - Child Care
  - Social Assistance
  - Housing and Homelessness
- TBDSSAB Information & Reports

# About TBDSSAB

# What We Do

- The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) supports people to improve their lives and become self-sufficient.

- We do this as the service system manager for vital, quality social services needed by individuals and families living in the District of Thunder Bay—including Child Care and Early Years, Community Housing, Homelessness Prevention Programs and through the delivery of Ontario Works.

# Mission and Vision

## Mission

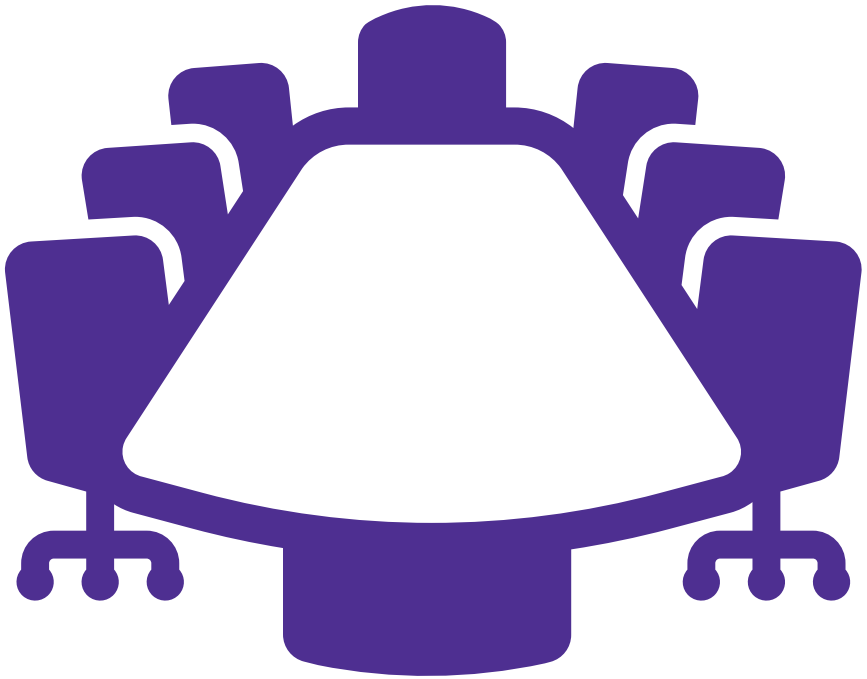
The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board delivers provincially mandated services on behalf of the citizens of the District of Thunder Bay in an equitable and cost-effective manner.

## Vision

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board provides quality services within the context of a commitment to social justice and recognition of people's potential to achieve self-sufficiency.

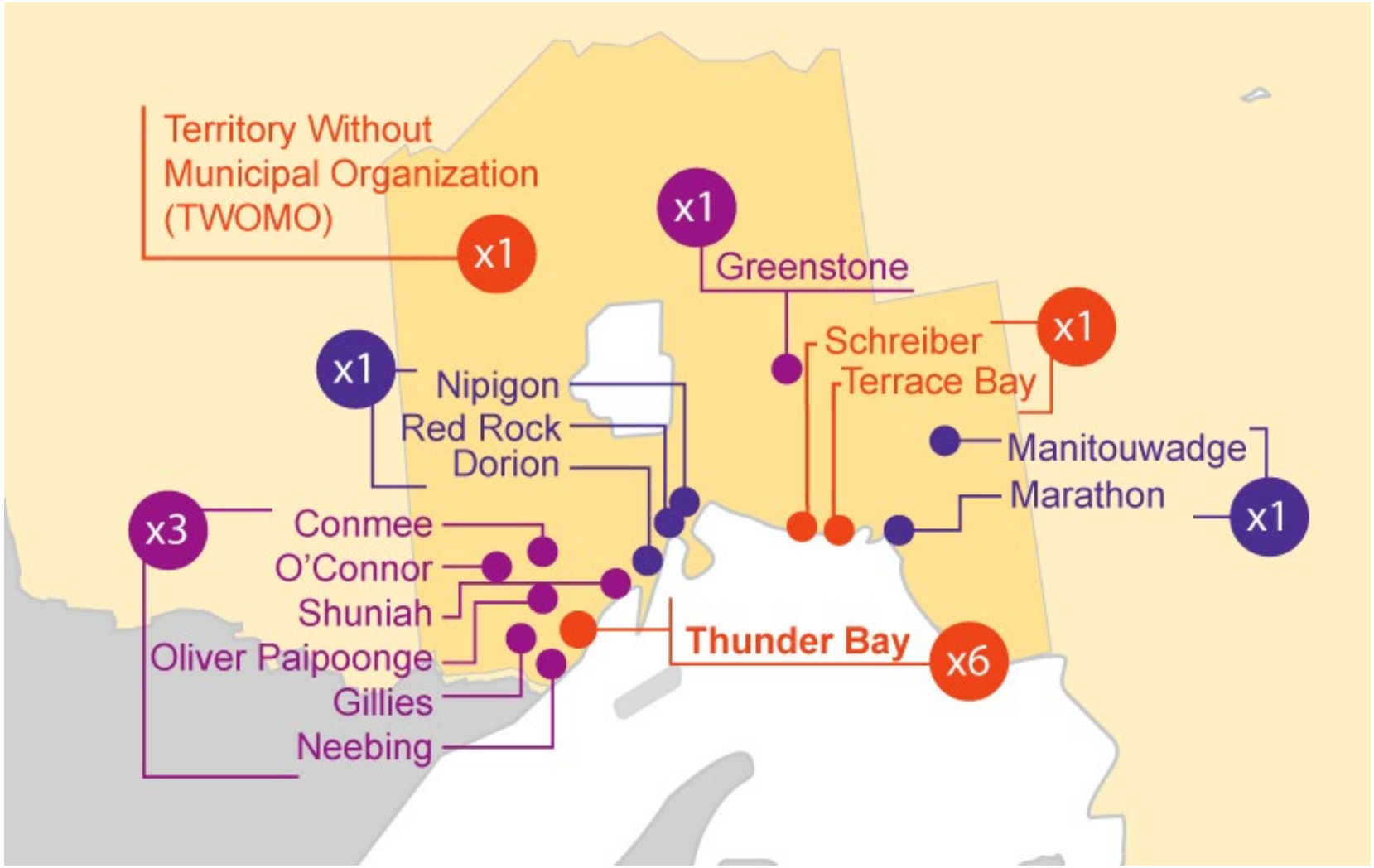
# Board of Directors

The TBDSSAB Board of Directors consists of 14 Members who are elected officials.

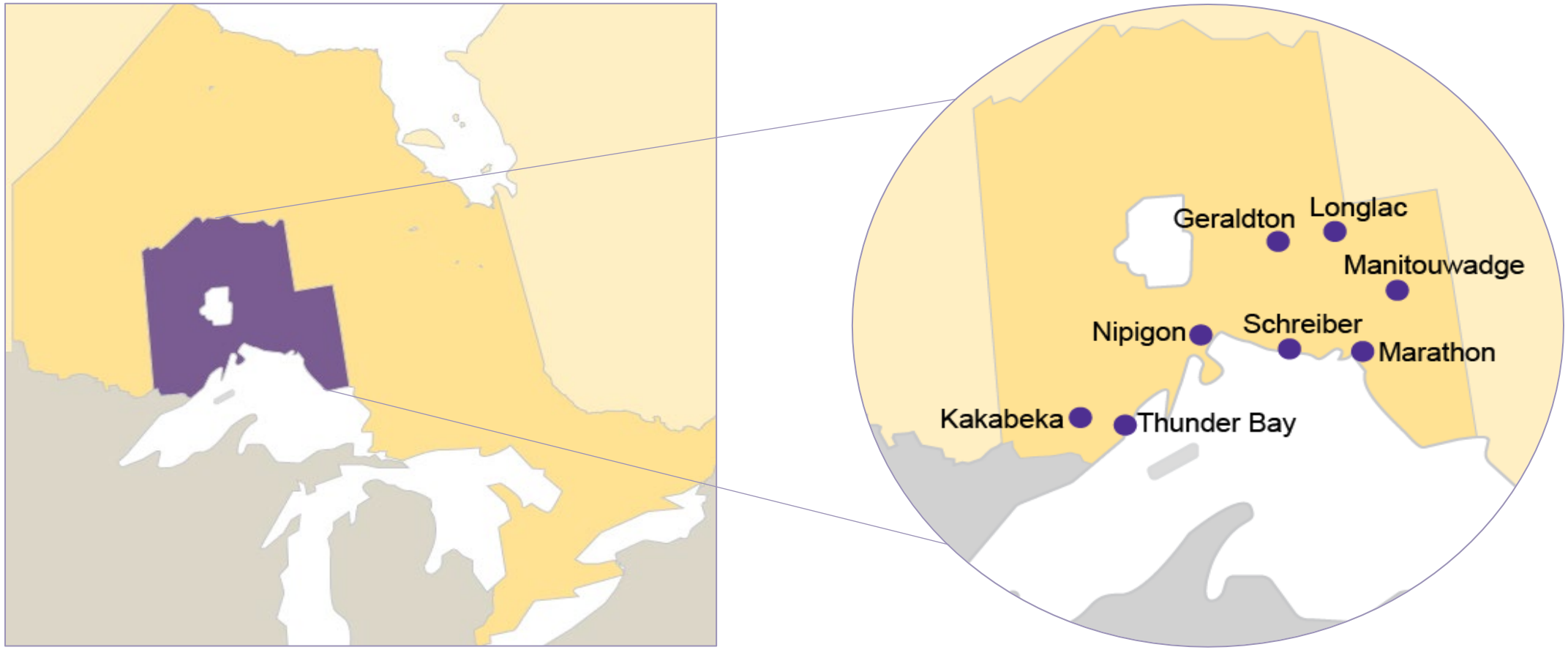


Board members are chosen by their municipal councils to serve on the Board as defined in the *District Social Services Administration Board Act.*

# Board Composition



# TBDSSAB Service Area and Office Locations




- Area: 103,719.51 km2

# Legislation

# DSSAB Act

- DSSABs created by Ontario legislation in 1999.
- DSSABs are not local boards or joint local boards of municipalities.
- DSSABs are deemed under the DSSAB Act to be Corporations.
- The DSSAB Act legislation sets out:
    - geographic jurisdictions of 10 DSSABs
    - governance and accountability requirements
    - prescribed social services
    - apportionment of costs

# TBDSSAB Responsibilities

- Delivery of Ontario Works (**Ontario Works Act, 1997**)
- Service System Manager for Childcare & Early Years (**Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014**)
- Service Manager for Community Housing, homelessness prevention programs (**Housing Services Act, 2011**)
- Direct Operator of Community Housing

# Programs & Services

## Programs & Services

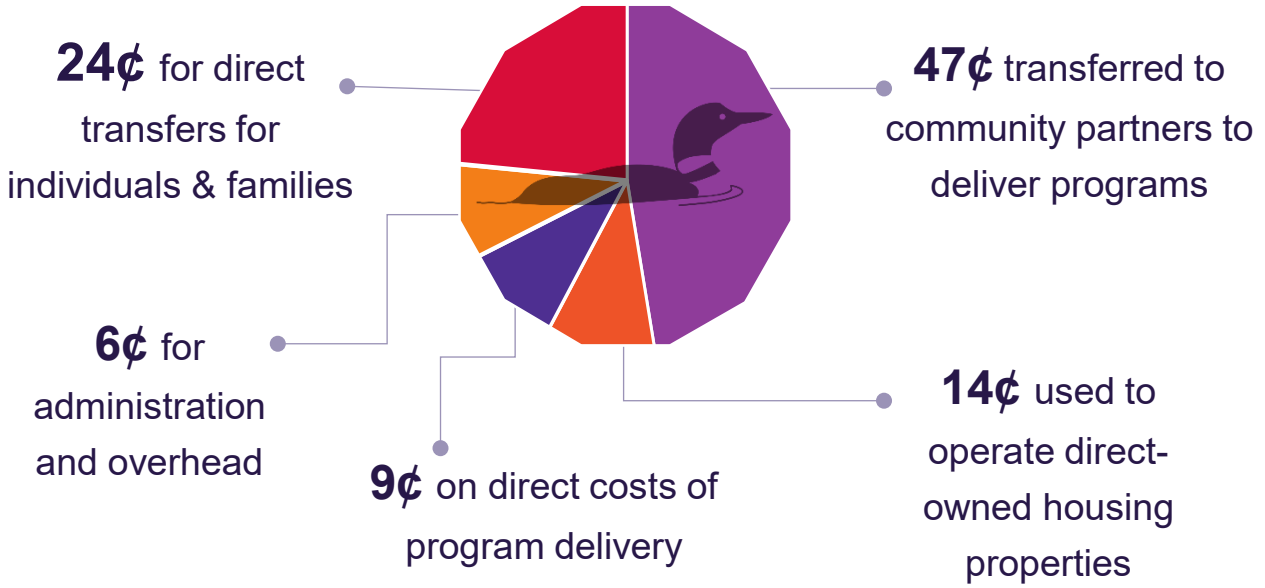
Integrated social services at TBDSSAB are offered through a mix of direct and funded service delivery.

**Child Care & Early Years Programs**

**Housing Operations & Homelessness Prevention Programs**

**Social Assistance Programs**
(Ontario Works)

## The TBDSSAB Dollar (2026)



# Child Care & Early Years Programs

# Child Care and Early Years Service System

- Fee Subsidy
- Online Child Care Applications / Waitlist
- Special Needs Resourcing
- Quality Assurance
- EarlyON Child and Family Centres
- Indigenous Led EarlyON Child and Family Centres
- Licensed Home Child Care
- Licensed Child Care
- Ontario Works Informal Child Care
- Wage Enhancement Grants
- Canada Wide Early Learning Child Care (CWELCC)

# Service System Profile

| Program | 2026 |
| --- | --- |
| Licensed Child Care Centres | 24 Service Providers<br>50 Locations |
| EarlyON Child and Family Centres | 12 Service Providers<br>22 Locations |
| Special Needs Resourcing | 1 Service Provider |

# Children's Services in Manitouwadge

- Child Care - Manitouwadge Nursery School
  - 10 licensed spaces serving 12 children

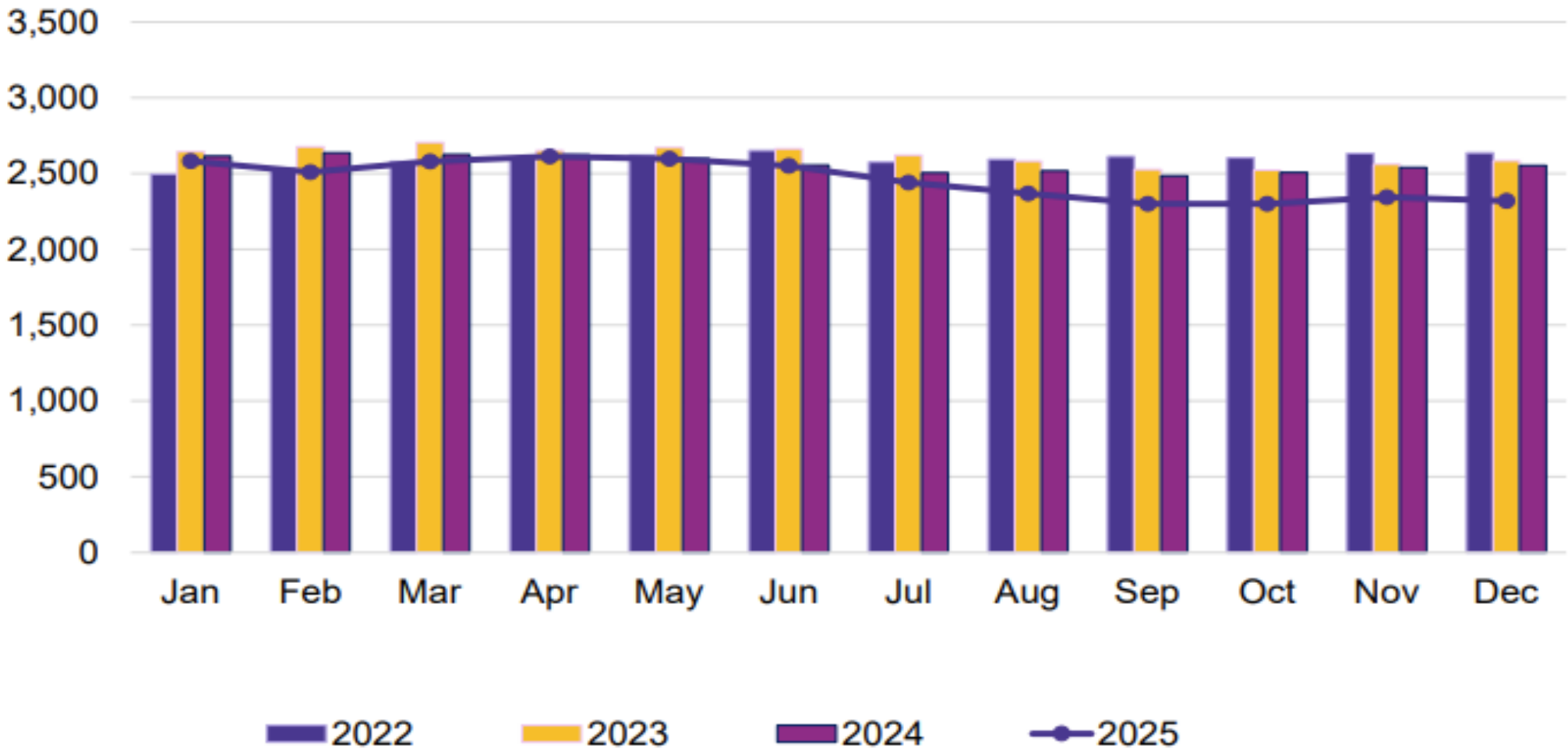
- EarlyON - Brass Bell Family Resource Centre Manitouwadge
  - 27 children attended in Q1
  - 16 parent visits

# Social Assistance Programs

# What is Ontario Works

- Ontario Works is a social assistance program across the province
- Empowers independence and self-sufficiency
- Provides income and housing assistance
- Governed by the *Ontario Works Act, 1997* and its Regulations

# Ontario Works Caseload



# Social Assistance in Manitouwadge

- 2026 caseload – 36 clients as of May 31st
- 5 year average caseload – 41 clients
- 2026 exits to employment – 6 clients

# Housing and Homelessness

# Housing Numbers

- 2,411 community housing units directly operated within the District of Thunder Bay
- 950 community housing units owned by 21 non-profit housing corporations that receive funding from TBDSSAB
- 611 rent supplement housing units with private and non-profit landlords
- As of May 2026, the centralized waitlist had 1,248 applicants for rent-geared-to-income (RGI) housing throughout the District

# Homelessness Prevention Program

- The Homelessness Prevention Program is a provincially-funded program addressing homelessness
- Supports housing and support services for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness
- 309 transitional and long-term supportive housing units have been created through TBDSSAB in the past 6 years

# Housing and Homelessness in Manitouwadge

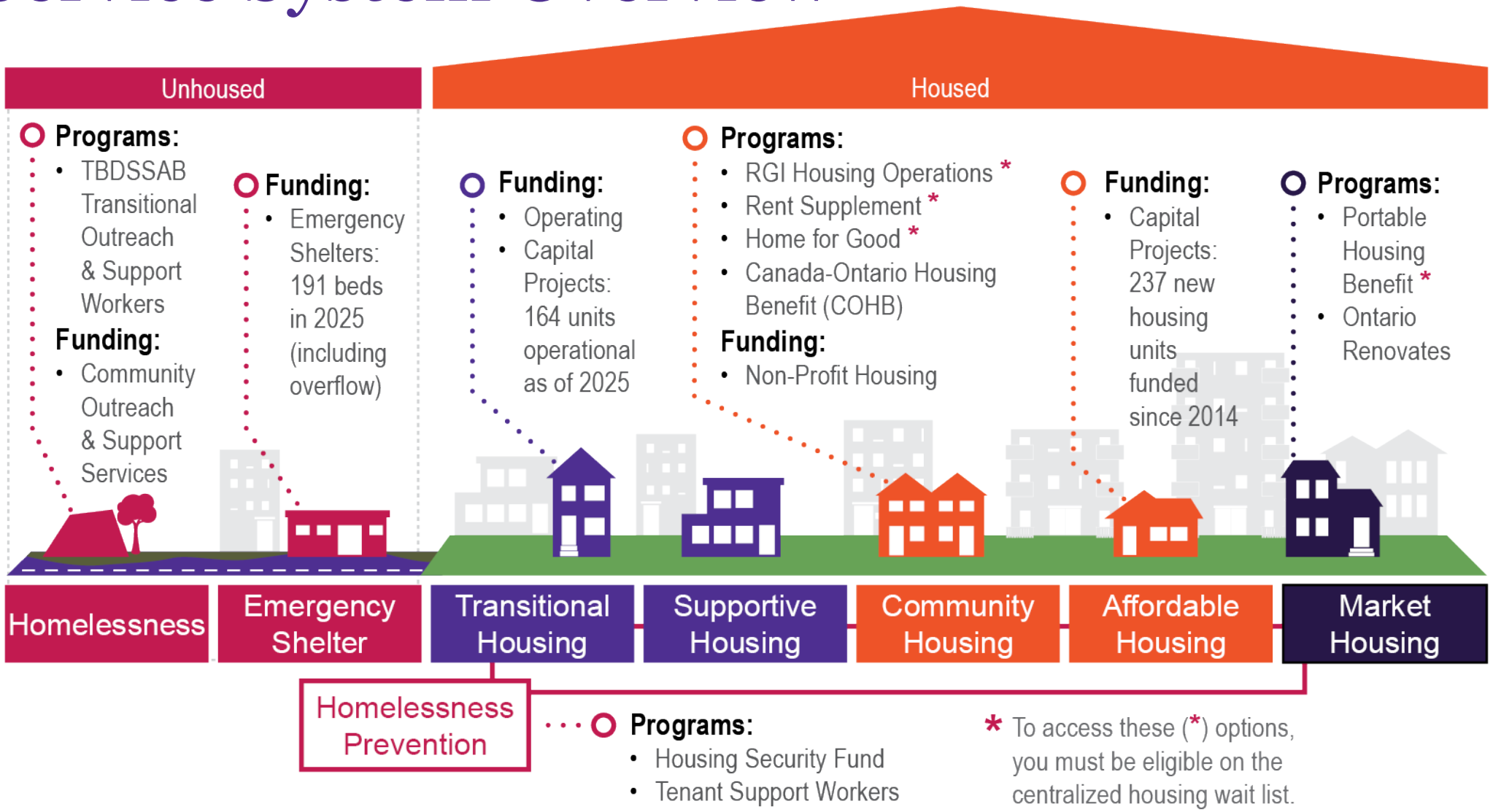
## Manitouwadge Municipal Housing

- 76 community housing units
- Current waitlist – 43 households
- 2026 TBDSSAB annual subsidy - $355,800

## Transitional Support Outreach Worker

- 3 clients active
- Network of support partners

# Service System Overview



# TBDSSAB Information and Reports

- Monthly Municipal Newsletter
- 2025 Annual Report
- TBDSSAB.ca – all reports, budget, presentations, program information
- Social media (LinkedIn, Facebook,)

# Questions?
# Comments?

Township of Manitouwadge Presentation

**Ken Ranta, CEO**

Ken.Ranta@tbdssab.ca

# MINUTES

Manitouwadge Regular Council
**Wednesday, June 10, 2026**
**7:00 PM in the Council Chambers**

The Regular Council of Manitouwadge was called to order on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

**PRESENT:** Mayor Jim Moffat, Councillor Dave Arola, Councillor Kathy Hudson, Councillor Braden Kotyk, and Councillor Tonilynn Ruff

**ABSENT:**

**STAFF:** Joleen Keough, CAO/Clerk, Chelsea Keough, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk, Marcel DeMars, Manager of Bylaw and Airport Services, and Tyler Brewster, Director of Public Works

**PUBLIC:** 0

## 01 CALL TO ORDER

**01** Call to Order.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-92**
Moved by: Councillor Dave Arola Seconded by: Councillor Braden Kotyk
**RESOLVED THAT:** the Regular Meeting commence at the hour of 7:00 p.m.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** Council acknowledges that we are meeting in the Robinson-Superior Treaty area on lands that have been traditionally used by several Indigenous nations, but, we would like to pay special recognition to our closest Indigenous neighbours, the communities of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg and Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg First Nations.

We wish to recognize the long history of the First Nations and M**étis**peoples in our region, specifically, and show respect to them today.

**CARRIED**

## 02 ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

## 03 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

## 04 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**01** Approval of Agenda.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-93**

Moved by: Councillor Braden Kotyk Seconded by: Councillor Tonilynn Ruff

**RESOLVED THAT:** the agenda be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

## 05 DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

## 06 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

**01** Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held May 27, 2026.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-94**

Moved by: Councillor Kathy Hudson Seconded by: Councillor Dave Arola

**RESOLVED THAT:** the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held May 27, 2026, are adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

## 07 PETITIONS

## 08 CORRESPONDENCE

**01** Correspondence from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding Proposed Planning Act Changes (Bill 119 – Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026)

**02** Correspondence from the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board: Board Newsletter.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-95**

Moved by: Councillor Dave Arola Seconded by: Councillor Braden Kotyk

**RESOLVED THAT:** correspondence item 08-01 – 08-02 be received and filed.

**CARRIED**

## 09 REPORTS AND COMMITTEES

## 10 VERBAL UPDATE BY MAYOR

**01** Verbal Update by Mayor.

## 11 VERBAL UPDATE BY CAO

**01** Verbal Update by CAO.

## 12 BUSINESS

**01** Proclamation for Seniors Month.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-96**

Moved by: Councillor Tonilynn Ruff Seconded by: Councillor Braden Kotyk

**WHEREAS** Seniors' Month is an annual province-wide celebration; and,

**WHEREAS** seniors have contributed and continue to contribute immensely to the life and vibrancy of this community; and,

**WHEREAS** seniors continue to serve as leaders, mentors, volunteers and important and active members of this community; and,

**WHEREAS** their contributions past and present warrant appreciation and recognition and their stories deserve to be told; and,

**WHEREAS** the health and well-being of seniors is in the interest of all and further adds to the health and well-being of the community; and,

**WHEREAS** the knowledge and experience seniors pass on to us continues to benefit all.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** I, Mayor Jim Moffat, on behalf of Manitouwadge Council, hereby proclaims the month of June, 2026 as Seniors' Month in the Township of Manitouwadge.

**CARRIED**

**02** Proclamation for National Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-97**

Moved by: Councillor Braden Kotyk Seconded by: Councillor Dave Arola

**WHEREAS** the Month of June is recognized as National Indigenous History Month – an opportunity to increase the visibility of Indigenous contributions, experiences, values and cultures, and to build bridges of understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people throughout Canada and in the Township of Manitouwadge; and,

**WHEREAS** June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples Day, a day to honour the unique history, heritage and diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples; and,

**WHEREAS** we respectfully acknowledge our neighbours, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg and Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg First Nations and that the Township of Manitouwadge is located in Biigtigong Nishnaabeg and Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850 territory, and that the land on which the Township lies is in the traditionally territory of the Anishnaabeg (Ojibway) and the Métis People, who are the collective stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters in perpetuity, and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come; and,

**WHEREAS** the Township of Manitouwadge strives to be an inclusive community and encourages all residents to reflect, learn, and take action in a meaningful way towards reconciliation in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT I,** Mayor Jim Moffat, on behalf of Manitouwadge Council, do hereby proclaim the month of June 2026 as National Indigenous History Month and the date of June 21, 2026 as National Indigenous

Peoples Day in the Township of Manitouwadge.

**CARRIED**

**03** Proclamation for Pride Month.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-98**

Moved by: Councillor Kathy Hudson Seconded by: Councillor Braden Kotyk

**WHEREAS** June is recognized as Pride Month in Canada and around the world as an opportunity to celebrate sexual diversity, promote equal rights, and build awareness of the challenges faced by the 2SLGBTQI+ community; and,

**WHEREAS** Pride Month is an opportunity to prevent discrimination and promote acceptance and inclusion of all, and to support the development of harmonious and respectful relationships amongst all members of our community; and,

**WHEREAS** the Township of Manitouwadge celebrates the diversity of our gender and sexual minority communities including Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, and more (2SLGBTQI+), and expresses a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in our organization and our community; and,

**WHEREAS** during Pride Month we can all reflect on the progress made to recognize and protect the rights of 2SLGBTQI+ communities, and the work that still needs to be done.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** I, Mayor Jim Moffat, on behalf of Manitouwadge Council, hereby proclaims the month of June, 2026 as Pride Month in the Township of Manitouwadge.

**CARRIED**

**04** Administration Report ADM2026-08 submitted by Joleen Keough, CAO/Clerk regarding Invitation to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) – Public Feedback Workshop on Proposed Site Selection Process for a Second Deep Geological Repository (DGR).

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-99**

Moved by: Councillor Dave Arola Seconded by: Councillor Tonilynn Ruff

**RESOLVED THAT:** Council is in receipt of Administration Report ADM2026-08 submitted by Joleen Keough, CAO/Clerk regarding Invitation to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) – Public Feedback Workshop on Proposed Site Selection Process for a Second Deep Geological Repository (DGR); and further,

**THAT** Council approves inviting the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) to host a public feedback workshop in Manitouwadge on the proposed site selection process for a second Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for intermediate-level and non-fuel high-level radioactive waste; and further,

**THAT** Council directs Administration to formally invite Biigtigong Nishnaabeg and Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg First Nations to participate in the workshop; and

further,

**THAT** Council directs Administration to work with NWMO to schedule the session, secure an appropriate venue, and promote the event to the public.

**CARRIED**

## 13 BYLAWS

## 14 MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

## 15 CLOSED SESSIONS

**01** Section 239(2)(c): a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board.

- Land acquisition

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-100**

Moved by: Councillor Kathy Hudson Seconded by: Councillor Braden Kotyk

**WHEREAS** Section 239(4) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 provides that before holding a meeting or part of a meeting that is to be closed to the public, a municipality or local board or committee of either of them, shall state by resolution the fact of holding of the closed meeting and the general nature of the matter to be considered at the closed meeting;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** this meeting is hereby closed to the public as the subject matter being discussed falls under the following sections:

1. Section 239(2)(c): a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board.

- Land Acquisition

**CARRIED**

**02** Open to the Public.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-101**

Moved by: Councillor Braden Kotyk Seconded by: Councillor Dave Arola

RESOLVED THAT: the meeting is hereby declared to be open to the public at 7:47 p.m.

**CARRIED**

## 16 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION

## 17 CONFIRMATORY BYLAW

**01** **Being a Bylaw to** Confirm Proceedings of the Council of the Township of Manitouwadge at its Regular Meeting held Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-102**

Moved by: Councillor Braden Kotyk Seconded by: Councillor Tonilynn Ruff

**Being a Bylaw to** Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of the Township of Manitouwadge at its Regular meeting held on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, **be read a first and second time.**

**And Furthermore,** be read a third time, passed and numbered as **Bylaw No. 2026-19.**

**CARRIED**

## 18 ADJOURNMENT

**01** Adjournment.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-103**

Moved by: Councillor Kathy Hudson Seconded by: Councillor Dave Arola

**RESOLVED THAT:** the Regular Meeting adjourn at the hour of 7:48 p.m.

**CARRIED**

_____

Mayor

_____

Clerk

:er

# THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

## BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

## MINUTES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING:** May 20, 2026

**TIME OF MEETING:** 1:00 PM

**PLACE OF MEETING:** First Floor Boardroom / MS Teams

**CHAIR:** Mr. James McPherson

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Grant Arnold

Ms. Cindy Brand
Ms. Kasey Etreni
Mr. Paul Malashewski
Mr. James McPherson
Mr. Jim Moffat
Ms. Cynthia Olsen
Ms. Donna Peacock
Mr. Don Smith
Ms. Kristine Thompson
Mr. Todd Wheeler

**REGRETS:**

Ms. Lucy Belanger
Dr. Mark Thibert

**RECORDER:**

Ms. Lila McNeice, Executive Assistant, Secretary to the Board of Health

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:**

Dr. Janet DeMille, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Greg Holzman, Incoming Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer (effective June 8, 2026)
Ms. Diana Gowanlock, Director – Health Protection
Mr. Dan Hrychuk, Director – Corporate Services
Ms. Shannon Robinson, Director – Health Promotion
Ms. Dana Wilson, Associate Director – Communications and Strategic Initiatives
Ms. Diana Carlson, Administrative Assistant – Corporate Services

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

## 2. ATTENDANCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regrets were received from Ms. Lucy Belanger and Dr. Mark Thibert.

The Chair introduced Dr. Greg Holzman, incoming Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer.

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

## 4. AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda of the May 20, 2026 meeting was presented for approval.

**Resolution No. 53-2026**

**Moved By:** K. Thompson
**Seconded By:** J. Moffat

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Board of Health Meeting to be held on May 20, 2026, be approved.

**CARRIED**

## 5. INFORMATION SESSION

### 5.1 Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hub

D. Gowanlock, Director of Health Promotion, introduced Amanda Elder (Public Health Inspector with the IPAC Hub) who provided a presentation on the IPAC Hub and responded to comments from the Board.

## 6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 6.1 Thunder Bay District Board of Health

The minutes of the April 15, 2026 Board of Health Regular and Closed sessions, and May 6, 2026 Special Meeting were presented for approval.

**Resolution No. 54-2026**

**Moved By:** J. Moffat
**Seconded By:** K. Thompson

THAT the minutes of the Thunder Bay District Board of Health (Regular and Closed Session) meeting held on April 15, 2026, and the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 6, 2026, be approved.

**CARRIED**

## 7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting minutes.

## 8. BOARD OF HEALTH (CLOSED SESSION) MEETING

**Resolution No. 55a-2026**

**Moved By:** D. Smith
**Seconded By:** J. Moffat

THAT the Board of Health move into Closed Session to:

- Receive information relative to negotiations carried on behalf of the Board.
- Address matters related to an identifiable individual.

**CARRIED**

At 1:17 PM, the Board of Health moved into Closed Session, and the following individuals left the meeting:

- Dr. Janet DeMille, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
- Dr. Greg Holzman, Incoming Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer (effective June 8, 2026)
- Ms. Diana Gowanlock, Director – Health Protection
- Mr. Dan Hrychuk, Director – Corporate Services
- Ms. Shannon Robinson, Director – Health Promotion
- Ms. Dana Wilson, Associate Director – Communications and Strategic Initiatives
- Ms. Diana Carlson, Administrative Assistant – Corporate Services
- Ms. Lila McNeice, Executive Assistant, Secretary to the Board of Health

At 2:00 PM, the above noted individuals returned to the meeting.

### 8.1 Closed Session Report

The Chair reported that during the Closed Session, the Board of Health discussed matters relative to negotiations carried on behalf of the Board and matters related to an identifiable individual.

## 9. DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

### 9.1 Policy & Procedure Reviews

Dr. J. DeMille presented a memorandum containing a resolution relative to the approval of Board of Health policies and procedures.

**Resolution No. 56-2026**

**Moved By:** J. Moffat
**Seconded By:** K. Thompson

THAT amendments to the following Board of Health policies and procedures be approved:

- BH-02-19 Communications Policy and Procedure
- BH-02-12 Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Policy

AND THAT Administration be authorized to finalize and publish the updated Board of Health policies and procedures.

**CARRIED**

### 9.2 Presentations to Municipalities Draft Policy

Dr. J. DeMille presented a memorandum containing a resolution relative to the approval of the Board of Health Presentations to Municipalities Policy.

**Resolution No. 57-2026**

**Moved By:** J. Moffat
**Seconded By:** D. Smith

THAT the following Board of Health policy be approved:

- BH-02-07 Presentations to Municipalities Policy

AND THAT Administration be authorized to finalize and publish the Board of Health policy.

**CARRIED**

## 10. COMMUNICATIONS FOR INFORMATION

### 10.1 First Quarter Interim Financial Statements

D. Hrychuk, Director of Corporate Services, presented Report No. 22-2026 relative to providing the Board of Health with the interim financial statements for the quarter ended March 31, 2026, for information.

### 10.2 Reports Previously Presented in Closed Session: 2025 and 2026 Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreements

D. Hrychuk, Director of Corporate Services, presented a memorandum regarding two funding reports previously presented in closed session that can now be made public.

### 10.3 PHAC Promoting Positive Youth Relationships

S. Robinson, Director of Health Promotion, presented Report No. 20-2026 regarding the Promoting Positive Youth Relationships Project, for information.

### 10.4 French Language Services Report

S. Robinson, Director of Health Promotion, presented Report No. 21-2026 relative to the annual progress report on the French Language Services, for information.

### 10.5 Resolutions for Consideration at the alPHa Annual General Meeting

Dr. J. DeMille, Medical Officer of Health and CEO, presented a memorandum regarding the resolutions for consideration at the 2026 alPHa Annual General Meeting.

Board members discussed questions related to the draft resolutions. Mr. J. McPherson, Chair, requested that feedback regarding the proposed resolutions be directed to himself or Ms. Cynthia Olsen.

Administration to follow up on deferred alPHa resolutions from 2025.

### 10.6 Medical Officer of Health/CEO Report

Dr. J. DeMille provided the Board with an update memorandum regarding potential support for Northeastern Public Health's approved resolution on improving highway safety in Northwestern Ontario. The memorandum also addressed Manitoba's declaration of a public health emergency related to HIV.

The Board requested a draft resolution for the June Board meeting in support of Northeastern Public Health's approved resolution, to be copied to local MPPs and MPs.

Dr. J. DeMille also noted that there was a meeting with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Ontario Medical Officers of Health in March, where the Ministry shared challenges they are dealing with relative to the fiscal environment and budgeting process. The meeting also addressed what health units can do to show greater accountability and reporting, and find ways to retain more sustainable funding.

## 11. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on June 17, 2026.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

**Resolution No. 58-2026**

**Moved By:** K. Thompson
**Seconded By:** D. Smith

THAT the Board of Health meeting held on May 20, 2026, be adjourned at 2:41 PM.

**CARRIED**

# ADMINISTRATION REPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| To: | Council |
| Report Number: | TR2026-05 |
| Subject: | 2026 Tax Arrears Report and Recommendations |
| Meeting: | Regular Council - 08 Jul 2026 |
| Department: | Administration |
| Staff: | Aaron MacGregor, Treasurer |

**Recommendations:**

THAT Council authorizes Administration to register tax arrears certificates for the recommended properties if Administration deems such action appropriate for collection of tax arrears, and

THAT Council authorizes Administration to vest the properties for which tax sales were unsuccessfully conducted on May 28th, 2026, if Administration seems such action appropriate for collection of tax arrears.

**Background:**

Assessment property taxes represent approximately 50% of the total revenues of the Township of Manitouwadge. Further, water and sewer charges are now collected using the same mechanisms as taxation. Prompt and effective collection of property tax and user fees is crucial for the financial well-being of the municipality. When property taxes are not collected promptly and arrears balances grow, ultimate recovery of the arrears amounts can become doubtful. While penalties and interest can mitigate the impact of cash flow issues associated with tax arrears, this is only the case when arrears and interest are actually collected by the municipality.

Township Administration sends regular property tax account reminder notices to property tax account holders. These notices advise account holders of upcoming deadlines where further action may be taken, and encourage contact with the Township to discuss repayment agreement options. The goal of such notices is to help keep tax accounts with more “minor” arrears amounts from building up and become more difficult to address. However, in cases where these efforts fail, stronger steps are required to ensure that tax arrears are collected.

**Commentary:**

Failed Tax Sales

Tax sales were held on May 28th, 2026 for eight properties. Three of the tax sales were successful, and five were unsuccessful. Generally, following a failed tax sale, properties are vested to the Township and subsequently listed and sold by the Township's realtor. Section 386 of the Municipal Act, 2001 allows the Township to enter on and inspect the land in question to determine whether vesting is in the best interest of the municipality. Township Administration recommends that Council authorize Administration to assess the following five failed tax sale properties, and vest them to the Township if deemed appropriate:

10 Redwing Avenue
36 Huron Walk
41 Otter Avenue
8 Wenonah Drive
34 Otter Avenue

Current State of Property Tax Arrears

As of June 30th, 2026, the total tax arrears balance for accounts with two-plus year arrears is $436,639.57 across 40 tax accounts. These two-year arrears are further broken down as follows:
$50,266.90 in arrears are associated with 9 accounts where repayment agreements have been made with the property owners,
$140,448.14 in arrears are associated with the 5 failed tax sale properties above, and
$245,924.53 in arrears are associated with the remaining 26 tax accounts.

Administration recommends that Council authorize the registration of tax arrears certificates on properties with two-year arrears if Administration deems tax arrears registration necessary to collect outstanding balances. Administration may choose to use other collection methods, such as use of an external collection agency, in accordance with the Tax Collection Policy.

A list of property tax rolls numbers, associated account balances, repayment agreement statuses, and tax arrears certificate registration recommendations with respect to properties with two-year arrears is provided to Council as a confidential attachment to this report.

While authorization for tax arrears certificate registration is recommended for 35 tax accounts, Administration expects the vast majority of these accounts will not proceed to tax sale. Prior to tax arrears certificate registration, final notices will be sent to property owners, and additional communications methods will be attempted where possible. The goal of such communication is making a suitable payment arrangement and avoiding arrears certificate registration. After tax arrears certificate registration, property owners have one year to pay the property tax arrears in full or make a suitable repayment arrangement. Under the Policy, repayment agreements made after arrears certificate registration require Council approval. Such agreement requests will be brought to Council by the Treasurer or designate in accordance with the Policy.

**Financial Implications:**

A functioning tax collection system is an integral part of the financial well-being of the Township.

**Relationship to Strategic Plan:**

Effective tax collection per established policy is consistent with the following Strategic Plan values for local governance and managing municipal resources:
-Transparency
-Accountability
-Forward-Looking
-Fostering Reasonable Expectations
-Sustainable Community
-Flexibility to Meet Future Needs
-Reducing Vulnerability

**Accessibility Implications:**

Tax collection is a sensitive matter, and the personal circumstances of taxpayers, including illness or disability, must be considered as part of collections efforts. Per the Township of Manitouwadge Tax Collection Policy, the Township endeavours to exercise discretion and makes accommodations where possible, while ensuring fairness to all taxpayers and that the best interests of the municipality are met.

**In Consultation With:**

Joleen Keough, CAO and Clerk
Melissa Biggin, Accounts Receivable

THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

Our File No.: SSB-10

June 23, 2026

Joleen Keough, CAO/Clerk
Township of Manitouwadge
clerk@manitouwadge.ca

Dear Joleen Keough

**RE: TBDSSAB 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference Briefings**

Enclosed for your Municipality's information and endorsement is a copy of The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board's 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference Briefing Package, approved at the June 18, 2026 Board Meeting. A copy of Resolution No. 26/32A and 26/32B are also enclosed.

Should you have any questions relative to the above, please contact me at (807) 766-2115 or ken.ranta@tbdssab.ca.

Sincerely,

Ken Ranta
Chief Executive Officer

KR/gf

Attachments

#1 Increasing Housing Stock to Support Indigenous Peoples Experiencing Homelessness in the District of Thunder Bay
#2 Growing Supportive Housing with Increased Mental Health & Addictions Supports
#3 COCHI-OPHI Investments for the Future of Housing in the District of Thunder Bay
#4 Amending Ontario Works' Income and Exemptions Directive

Copy to: Mayor Jim Moffat, jmoffat@manitouwadge.ca

THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

# TBDSSAB
# Resolution No. 26/32A

**DATE:** **May 21, 2026** **PAGE 1 OF 1**

Kathleen Lynch — **MOVED BY**

Albert Aiello — **SECONDED BY**

☒ CARRIED ☐ AMENDED ☐ LOST ☐ DEFERRED ☐ REFERRED

**Re: 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Position Papers #1 - #3**

THAT with respect to Report No. 2026-16 (Chief Executive Officer Division) we, The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (the Board) receive the 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Position Papers, specifically Increasing Housing Stock to Support Indigenous Peoples Experiencing Homelessness in the District of Thunder Bay, Growing Supportive Housing with Increased Mental Health & Addictions Supports and COCHI-OPHI Investments for the Future of Housing in the District of Thunder Bay, as amended;

AND THAT we direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to incorporate any edits to the position papers recommended by the Board by consensus into a final delegation package;

AND THAT we direct the CEO to send the final delegation package to the appropriate provincial Ministries;

AND THAT a copy of the approved delegation briefings package be sent to the District of Thunder Bay municipal councils for endorsement;

AND THAT the CEO attend the 2026 AMO Annual Conference to provide support to the Board Chair and other Board members in their meetings with provincial officials regarding these issues.

Jim Vezina — **CHAIR / VICE-CHAIR**

Ken Ranta — **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Recorded Votes:

| MEMBER | YEAS | NAYS | MEMBER | YEAS | NAYS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albert Aiello | | | Greg Johnsen | | |
| Anne-Marie Bourgeault | | | Kathleen Lynch | | |
| ~~Shelby Ch'ng~~ | | | Elaine Mannisto | | |
| Gordon Cuthbertson | | | Jim Moffat | | |
| Chris Eby | | | Dominic Pasqualino | | |
| Kasey Etreni | | | Don Smith | | |
| Brian Hamilton | | | Jim Vezina | | |

DISTRIBUTION: Original - Resolution Folder

THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

# TBDSSAB
# Resolution No. 26/32B

**DATE:** **May 21, 2026** **PAGE 1 OF 1**

Jim Moffat — **MOVED BY**

Don Smith — **SECONDED BY**

☒ CARRIED ☐ AMENDED ☐ LOST ☐ DEFERRED ☐ REFERRED

**Re: 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Position Paper - #4**

THAT with respect to Report No. 2026-16 (Chief Executive Officer Division) we, The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (the Board) receive the 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Position Paper Amending Ontario Works' Income and Exemptions Directive, as amended;

AND THAT we direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to incorporate any edits to the position papers recommended by the Board by consensus into a final delegation package;

AND THAT we direct the CEO to send the final delegation package to the appropriate provincial Ministries;

AND THAT a copy of the approved delegation briefings package be sent to the District of Thunder Bay municipal councils for endorsement;

AND THAT the CEO attend the 2026 AMO Annual Conference to provide support to the Board Chair and other Board members in their meetings with provincial officials regarding these issues.

Jim Vezina — **CHAIR / VICE-CHAIR**

Ken Ranta — **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Recorded Votes:

| MEMBER | YEAS | NAYS | MEMBER | YEAS | NAYS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| Anne-Marie Bourgeault | | | Kathleen Lynch | | |
| ~~Shelby Ch'ng~~ | | | Elaine Mannisto | | |
| Gordon Cuthbertson | | | Jim Moffat | | |
| Chris Eby | | | Dominic Pasqualino | | |
| Kasey Etreni | | | Don Smith | | |
| Brian Hamilton | | | Jim Vezina | | |

DISTRIBUTION: Original - Resolution Folder

THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

# COCHI-OPHI Investments for the Future of Housing in the District of Thunder Bay

## POSITION PAPER

**August 2026**

**Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference**

Prepared by:

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board

Prepared for:

Hon Rob. Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

# Brief

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) requests that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) provide additional funding through the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI), and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) to support the development of new affordable housing units in the District of Thunder Bay.

# Summary

COCHI and OPHI provide critical funding for TBDSSAB's effective support of the Community Housing sector. This funding is used to support capital projects, the crucial repairs and maintenance of aging housing stocks, and rent supplements for Urban Native housing in the District of Thunder Bay. Affordable housing solutions are critical to providing easier access to housing in the District, while ensuring long-term tenancies contribute to the mitigation of ongoing cycles of homelessness. That said, the request for additional COCHI/OPHI funding to increase the stock of affordable housing units would help address growing constraints that are increasingly visible due to the increased cost of living.

# Background

On April 30, 2018, Ontario and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation signed a Bilateral Agreement regarding the National Housing Strategy (NHS). This agreement provided an opportunity to align federal funds with Ontario's Community Housing Renewal Strategy priorities.

Currently, there are three key initiatives under the NHS that are delivered by Ontario: Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI), Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) and the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB). Both COCHI and OPHI provide critical funding for TBDSSAB's effective planning for the provision of community housing, which includes allocations towards capital projects, repairs and maintenance, housing supplements, and homelessness prevention in the District.

Since their inception, these funding streams have become critical to TBDSSAB's effective provision of Community Housing. Over the past five years, COCHI funding has been central to the repair of over 2,900 housing units, along with supporting maintenance of over 270 existing legacy housing units built under the Urban Native Housing Program.

TBDSSAB has also supported a total of 237 affordable housing units. Most recently, in 2025, COCHI funding was used to help build a 14-unit affordable housing project that will support individuals living with disabilities, individuals living with mental illness or addictions, and those experiencing homelessness in the District. These projects are evidence of successful affordable housing initiatives that provide safe, affordable, and sustainable housing solutions for those who need it most.

COCHI and OPHI funding streams will also significantly impact the goals laid out in the TBDSSAB's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan by supporting the preservation of existing community housing units and the creation of new affordable housing. In the 10-Year Plan, TBDSSAB has an expansion target for the 2025-26 fiscal year of 30 new units. This target is in line with the goal of developing rent-assisted units in the District to support Ontario's overall NHS commitment[1]. The purpose of these intersecting targets is to expand the rent-assisted housing stock. COCHI-OPHI investments have been and continue to be imperative to reaching these combined goals.

While strides have been made to grow the current affordable housing stock, the continued need to develop additional affordable housing units is demonstrated in the following data that reflects current realities:

[1] Units that are eligible to be counted toward the 30-unit target include COCHI and OPHI rent assisted units, such as expired Urban Native Housing units, new units created through investment of HPP, OPHI, and COCHI funding, Municipal investments in new rent supplement or rent supported units.

- **Rental Rates**: The demand for affordable housing units continues to grow with the increasing cost of rent, making it even more difficult for low-to-moderate income households to secure affordable housing. From 2022-2025 average rent costs[2] rose 22% for a one-bedroom unit and 27% for a two-bedroom unit[3]. As of October 2025, the average cost of a one-bedroom unit in Thunder Bay is $1,173, and two-bedroom is $1,495.
- **Community Housing Waitlist**: As of February 2026, the TBDSSAB housing waitlist sits at 1,243 applicants. Majority of demand is for one-bedroom units, which has increased from 71.4% in 2025 to 77.4% in 2026.
- **Rising Homelessness Numbers**: The rate of homelessness in the District continues to increase. On the TBDSSAB housing waitlist, 74 applicants are under High Needs Homeless[4] status[5]. In addition, 36.6% of applicants on the waitlist self-reported their housing status as homeless, a 6% increase from the last two years. In the District of Thunder Bay's homelessness By-Name List (BNL) 1129 individuals are actively homeless, and 58% (660) self-reported as Indigenous[6].

Given these stark realities, the creation of new affordable housing for the District would provide further stability for the community as the cost of living and demand for affordable housing increases. With limited funding, coupled with an average cost of $450,000 to build a single new unit, the current funding constrains TBDSSAB from reaching its yearly housing targets.

Therefore, the TBDSSAB requests that the MMAH provide additional funding to enable us to support the continued development of affordable housing stock in the District of Thunder Bay.

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[2] Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. **Ontario** — Rental Market Statistics Summary by Metropolitan Areas, Census Agglomerations and Cities.
[3] Average cost of a one-bedroom in 2022 was $964, and two-bedroom was $1,174.
[4] High Needs Homeless prioritizes people experiencing chronic homelessness on the TBDSSAB housing waitlist.
[5] As of February 2026.
[6] BNL numbers are reported as of the end of 2025.

THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

# Increasing Housing Stockto Support Indigenous Peoples Experiencing Homelessness in the District of Thunder Bay

## POSITION PAPER

**August 2026**

**Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference**

Prepared by:

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board

Prepared for:

Hon Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation and the Minister Responsible for Ring of Fire Economic and Community Partnerships

Copy to: Hon Rob. Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

# Brief

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) requests that Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation provide dedicated funding through the First Nations Infrastructure Funds program to enable the development of new affordable housing units to support Indigenous individuals experiencing homelessness in the District of Thunder Bay.

# Summary

The need for new Indigenous affordable housing units in District of Thunder Bay remains urgent, particularly as urban Indigenous populations continue to face disproportionate levels of core housing need, overcrowding, and housing insecurity. While investments have historically focused on on-reserve housing, there is a clear and growing gap in support for Indigenous peoples living in urban centres, particularly in provision of housing options. Expanding culturally appropriate, affordable housing through TBDSSAB in the District of Thunder Bay would directly contribute to responding to this need, and in turn, help to stabilize families, improve health outcomes, and strengthen community well-being. Dedicated funding in this area would allow TBDSSAB to continue our work with Indigenous-led providers to create more affordable housing units accompanied by Indigenous-led supports. These additional units will support the continued provision of culturally appropriate, safe, and affordable housing for Indigenous peoples in the District of Thunder Bay.

# Background

Past funding streams have positively impacted the targets TBDSSAB set in our previous 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan by facilitating the preservation of existing community Urban Native Housing units and supporting the creation of new Indigenous-led affordable housing. Future funding allocations will also support the targets defined in our new 10-year plan by driving the creation of new affordable housing stock. As part of the plan, there is a priority consideration for addressing the increasing number of Indigenous peoples experiencing homelessness in the District.

The construction of additional housing units for Indigenous peoples is central to TBDSSAB's new 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan with the goal of providing culturally appropriate supports delivered by our Indigenous partners. In the District of Thunder Bay, a higher portion of residents are Indigenous (16%) compared to all of Canada (5%)[1].

As indicated in the Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy, culturally appropriate housing is necessary for Indigenous people who face heightened discrimination, stigmatization, and higher rates of homelessness[2]. In Canada, 17.5% of Indigenous peoples report living below the poverty line, compared to 9.5% of non-Indigenous people[3]. This is especially true in the District of Thunder Bay where an increasing number of Indigenous peoples are experiencing homelessness.

As a result, the need for more affordable housing for Indigenous people is increasing, as demonstrated by data that reflects current realities:

- On the TBDSSAB housing Waitlist 36.6% (457) of applicants self-reported their housing status as homeless, which is a 5.8% increase over the last two years. Additionally, 74 individuals are under High Needs Homeless (HNH) status, which prioritizes people experiencing chronic homelessness[4].

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1 Statistics Canada (2021). Census of Population. Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population
2 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation 2023. CMHC.ca/IndigenousHousingStrategy.
3 Statistics Canada. (2024). Canadian Income Survey, 2022. The Daily. https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/240426/dq240426a-eng.htm
4 As of February 2026.

- In the District of Thunder Bay's homelessness By-Name List (BNL) 1129 individuals are actively homeless[5], and 58% (660) self-reported as Indigenous[6]. This is double when compared to general statistics across Canada, whereby consistently since 2015 about 30% of individuals who have used shelters across Canada were Indigenous[7,8].

Past research also supports the noticeable overrepresentation of Indigenous people experiencing homelessness. In a 2022 Homelessness Migration Study by TBDSSAB and faculty staff from Lakehead University, the research project focused on understanding the disproportional increase. Of those who participated in the study, 86% were Indigenous, and 57% of participants migrated directly from a First Nation community in Northern Ontario.

One of the findings showed that a high number of individuals who were experiencing homelessness in the city of Thunder Bay moved from First Nation communities[9]. The findings also highlighted common factors that drove migration into the city. These include social factors (friends, family, sense of community) and service factors (health care, housing, social services). For instance, a frequent theme that came up from the 'service factor' was respondents, who self-identified as Indigenous, migrated to the City of Thunder Bay to receive necessary supports that are not available in their communities. Upon arrival, respondents ended up staying in an emergency shelter space as they had no other options.

Other findings showed that 46% of Indigenous respondents did not have access to permanent housing in their community, and 32% do not have access to safe housing. This takeaway further highlights the importance of providing Indigenous housing

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[5] BNL numbers are reported as of the end of 2025. It is not entirely accurate as reporting switched from excel sheets to the new Homelessness Service System Data tool (HSSDT) in September 2025.
[6] TBDSSAB expects that this number is underreported as a result of optional self-identification.
[7] Homelessness Data Snapshot: The National Shelter Study 2023 Update (2023). Stats Can. Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada - Homelessness Data Snapshot: The National Shelter Study 2023 Update
[8] Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities Canada (2025). Everyone Counts 2024: Highlights Report Part 2- Survey of People Experiencing Homelessness. Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada - Everyone Counts 2024 Highlights Report Part 2 – Survey of people experiencing homelessness
[9] R. Gokani., K. Lovato-Day, R. Liyanage, V. Mago, A. Park, T. Hay, R. Schiff, K. Ranta, & S. Cummings. (2022) Why Are So Many People Who Experience Homelessness in the City of Thunder Bay from Out of Town or Province? A Report on a Preliminary Mixed Methods Study Using Machine Learning Models to Understand Migration and Homelessness. Lakehead University, Thunder Bay.

solutions in the District that are designed and managed by Indigenous-led entities to provide safe, affordable, and culturally appropriate housing options.

Through initiatives under the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), and other programs such as Homes for Good (HFG) and COCHI/OPHI funding, TBDSSAB supports and partners with many Indigenous organizations to provide housing and supports to Indigenous individuals. The importance and benefits of funding allocated through these programs are evident in the following examples:

- HFG has been central to funding 30 transitional housing spaces and providing appropriate social supports to facilitate successful transitions into stable permanent housing. Since it's inception, the HFG Program has supported a total of 677 individuals, 419 of which have been housed. In the program, 157 Indigenous people have been supported, and of that 75% (117) have been housed. Currently, HFG supports 177 clients, 28.6% (50) of which are Indigenous.
- Funding allocated towards preserving Urban Native Housing (UNH) units assists The Native People of Thunder Bay Development Corporation and the Geraldton Native Housing Corporation to meet their housing needs by providing subsidized housing units, as well as supportive and transitional housing for Indigenous peoples. Through these organizations, TBDSSAB supports over 270 existing legacy UNH housing units, yet there are still long waitlists for access to this housing.

TBDSSAB has worked with our local Indigenous housing partners for many years, including Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, Matawa First Nations, Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services, and Beendigen as they play a vital role in supporting individuals and families on their journey toward stable, safe, and culturally appropriate housing. Through their deep community connections and holistic approaches, these organizations provide not only shelter but also wraparound supports that address mental health, addictions, family wellbeing, and cultural reconnection. TBDSSAB is committed to continuing these relationships to collaboratively reach success for our community.

Without adequate funding that provides appropriate resources for supportive and affordable housing, Indigenous individuals experiencing homelessness have a much lower likelihood of moving along the housing continuum. Dedicated program funding would enable TBDSSAB to develop new affordable housing units that help provide

shelter and culturally-appropriate supports to Indigenous Individuals who are currently on the housing waitlists.

Therefore, TBDSSAB requests that the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs provides funding through the First Nations Infrastructure Funds program in the amount of $6,750,000 that would focus on supporting the development of a minimum of 20 new units to house Indigenous individuals experiencing homelessness in the District of Thunder Bay.

THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

# Amending Ontario Works' Income and Exemptions Directive

## POSITION PAPER

**August 2026**

**Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference**

Prepared by:

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board

Prepared for:

Hon. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

# Brief

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) requests that the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services (MCCSS) review and amend the Ontario Works policy directive section 5.1 regarding the earning exemption structure and introduce a $1,000 per month exemption for Ontario Works (OW) recipients who are employed.

# Summary

The current Ontario Works directive 5.1 related to the earning exemption structure is discouraging to sustaining long-term employment and reducing poverty. For some individuals finding and retaining employment, the current earnings exemption disincentivizes them to pursue work due to current deductions. Changing the structure to a flat $1,000 per month earning exemptions for OW recipients would adopt similar elements within the ODSP earnings exemption model. Against the background of the rising cost of living, the current earnings exemption cuts deeply for OW recipients. Amendment of this directive would drive individuals to build employment experience without facing a steep deduction in their benefits. In turn, recipients would be able to build and maintain financial stability while working on exiting to permanent employment.

# Background

Earning exemptions allow Ontario Works (OW) recipients to participate in employment opportunities while maintaining social assistance benefits. However,

these earnings are subject to certain conditions and exemptions. The previous earning exemptions introduced in June 2005 reduced OW client net income by 50% once employed. This was changed in October 2013, where after three consecutive months of assistance, recipients can earn $200 per month from their employer without deductions, and any additional income is subject to a 50% reduction in their assistance amount. This policy remains the current earning exemption structure, which deters recipients from pursuing employment due to the high wage deduction.

In comparison, the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) previously had a similar structure to the current OW earnings exemptions. Starting in September 2013, ODSP recipients could also earn up to $200 per month without deduction, and a 50% reduction for any income above that. In February 2023, this changed to promote employment and reduce the cycle of poverty for people with disabilities. Under the new directive, the full exemption was increased from $200 to $1,000 for a person living with a disability. The exemption rate was also changed from 50% reduction to 25% reduction[1]. Therefore, a person with disabilities on ODSP can earn up to $1000 a month through their employment without it affecting their income support, benefits, or eligibility.

For example, a breakdown of monthly earnings in 2026 for OW and ODSP are shown in Tables 1 and 2 (below). An OW recipient with basic needs and shelter can earn a maximum of $733 per month on OW. If they earn $600 net from their employment per month, $200 is exempt, leaving $400 to be deducted by 50%. Therefore, $200 total is deducted from their benefits, which leaves them with $1,133 per month. In contrast, a client on ODSP with basic needs and shelter can earn a maximum of $1,408. If they earn $600 a month from their employment, based on the current exemptions, nothing would be deducted. Therefore, they are left with $2,008 per month. In a year the total income of the person on OW making $600 per month would amount to $13,596, while the person on ODSP would amount to $24,096. As of 2023, the low-income measure sits at $30,255 per year[2], meaning the OW client's yearly income is $16,659 below the measure.

[1] The earning exemptions for non-disabled adults remains the same.

[2] The low-income measure is defined as income below 50% of the median adjusted household income in Canada.

| Table 1: Single Person Earnings OW (Monthly) | |
|---|---|
| OW Earnings | $733 |
| Net Employment Earnings | $600 |
| Flat Exemption from Earnings | $200 |
| 50% of Earnings Deducted | $200 |
| **Total Earnings Per Month** | **$1,133** |

| Table 2: Single Person Earnings ODSP (Monthly) | |
|---|---|
| ODSP Earnings | $1,408 |
| Net Employment Earnings | $600 |
| Flat Exemption from Earnings | $1,000 |
| 50% of Earnings Deducted | $0 |
| **Total Earnings Per Month** | **$2,008** |

In 2025, the average OW caseload for TBDSSAB was 2,459 recipients. Of that, 175 (7%) individuals were employed. This represents a 4% decrease in employed recipients since 2018[3]. Under ODSP, in 2025 the average caseload was 5,959, with 11% (677) employed. With a $1,000 earning exemption, individuals on ODSP have more incentive to work more hours at a higher earnings rate.

Given the current economic situation, there continues to be an increasing gap between OW rates and the cost of living. OW rates have not seen an increase since 2018, and as a result, OW recipients are living well below the low-income measure line, with little prospects of moving beyond it. One major factor behind this constraint is the cost of living, which has significantly grown in Canada since the last increase. The Canadian Consumer Price Index (CPI)[4] indicates a 19.9% increase in goods and

[3] 317 recipients were employed in 2018.

[4] The CPI measures inflation by tracking the changing cost of things such as food, shelter, transportation, clothing, etc.

services in the last five years[5]. In terms of housing, in the City of Thunder Bay the average rent for one bedroom in 2018 was $831. In 2025, the average rent for one bedroom was $1,173[6]. This represents a 41% increase in rent over seven years.

With the increased cost of rent and a higher cost of living, coupled with the unchanged OW rates, the Income and exemptions directive increases the burden on recipients as they strive to afford necessities and rent. The domino effect is seen in the reduction of the number of employed OW recipients. Many recipients may feel that it is not worth seeking enhanced employment as the benefits they receive are reduced. The impact noticed by front-line staff is that it creates more barriers in retaining employment and earnings income. For example, the lack of transportation, limited childcare, and availability of training opportunities in the District create additional costs and barriers for recipients who attempt to access employment. With a 50% reduction in net income after the $200 exemption, this leaves little incentive for OW recipients to pursue employment.

If the OW earnings exemption structure mirrored the ODSP structure, TBDSSAB believes recipients would have more incentives to finding and retaining long-term employment. A flat exemption allows OW recipients to build employment experience without fear of steep reduction in benefits. In addition, to sustain recipients' active employment status, TBDSSAB recommends that the earnings exemption should be indexed to yearly inflation rates to account for the increase in cost of living. In turn, this would benefit the mid and long-term employment numbers in the District as more recipients would be in a better position to successfully transition out of social assistance and into full-time employment. The net result of the increased earnings exemption would have no negative impact on current OW benefits cost and may result in reductions in OW recipients in the long run.

Therefore, the TBDSSAB requests that the MCCSS review and amend the Ontario Works (OW) policy directive 5.1 regarding the earning exemption structure and introduce a $1000 per month exemption for OW recipients to increase incentive for seeking and sustaining employment.

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[5] Statistics Canada. Consumer Price Index: Annual Review, 2025.

[6] Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. **Ontario** — Rental Market Statistics Summary by Metropolitan Areas, Census Agglomerations and Cities.

THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

# Growing Supportive Housing with Increased Mental Health & Addictions Supports

## POSITION PAPER

**August 2026**

**Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference**

Prepared by:

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board

Prepared for:

Hon Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health

Hon Rob. Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

# Brief

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) requests that the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing provide designated funding for the District of Thunder Bay to support the construction of 40 new supportive housing units and the necessary addictions and mental health supports.

# Summary

The TBDSSAB acknowledges and appreciates the government of Ontario's commitment to a multi-ministry approach to addressing homelessness and creating permanent and independent housing solutions. However, additional resources are necessary to adequately provide mental health and addictions support for the number of individuals who are unable to live independently. As is widely known, people experiencing homelessness are plagued with higher rates of mental health and addictions issues. Currently, the limited treatment resources required to address these issues in the District of Thunder Bay further create barriers to individuals who are on the path towards long-term employment and housing. Therefore, an increase in available supportive housing units in the District, with resources from mental health and addictions agencies, would provide more housing options for people who require support for their complex needs and keep them housed long-term.

# Background

For those experiencing mental health and addiction issues, various resources are required to ensure successful tenancies, prevent evictions, and end the cycle of

homelessness. For example, in Ontario, the Housing First approach to ending homelessness is well-known for its individualized and client driven supports as a core principle in sustaining permanent housing. Similarly, the Home for Good (HFG) initiative launched by the province provided committed funding to help Service Managers house homeless individuals while connecting them to appropriate resources to support successful transitions into stable housing.

Since 2016, TBDSSAB has supported the construction of various transitional and long-term supportive housing projects in the District of Thunder Bay. This support has been funneled through several provincial funding envelopes including HFG, Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF), Homelessness Prevention Program, and Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative. And in many cases, TBDSSAB has utilized our own reserve funds to support developments.

TBDSSAB has funded the development of 309 transitional and long-term supportive housing units over the past several years. While we have been able to support many individuals that resulted in positive outcomes, local service gaps continue to persist, as demonstrated by the findings below:

- Thunder Bay remains the highest per-capita opioid mortality rate in Ontario, with 80 opioid overdose deaths in 2024[1]. Opioid-related deaths occur at a rate of almost five times (69 per 100,000) compared to the province (14 per 100,000).
- In addition, opioid-related emergency department visits[2] occur at a rate of two and a half times more (123 per 100,000) compared to the province (46 per 100,000)[3]. The District of Thunder Bay also has higher rates of opioid related hospitalizations (31.4 per 100,000) compared to Ontario (12.6 per 100,000)[2,3].
- As a result of these high rates, opioid-related healthcare costs have continued to increase, placing further pressure on hospitals. From 2015-2020, emergency department visit costs have increased from $6.49 million to $11.39 million[4].
- Similarly, policing costs related to substance use of opioids have increased from $237.54 million in 2015 to $252.20 million in 2020[4].

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[1] Office of the Chief Coroner (OCC) (2024). Opioid Toxicity Deaths in Ontario.
[2] Not all opioid overdoses result in emergency department visits or hospitalizations; therefore, this data is an underrepresentation of the full picture opioids have on the community.
[3] The Thunder Bay District Health Unit (2024) Opioid Information System. https://www.tbdhu.com/opioidinfo
[4] Canadian Substance Use Costs and Harms (CSUCH). (2026). CSUCH Visualization Tool. Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction and Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research. CSUCH - Explore the Data

- The rate of homelessness in the District continues to increase. On the TBDSSAB housing waitlist in February 2026, 74 applicants' status are reported as High Needs Homeless[5]. In addition, 36.6% of applicants on the waitlist self-reported their housing status as homeless, a 6% increase in the last two years.
- In the District of Thunder Bay's homelessness By-Name List (BNL) 1129 individuals are actively homeless, and 58% (660) self-reported as Indigenous[6].
- Individuals experiencing homelessness are more at risk of substance use and mental health issues. Based on the 2024 Thunder Bay Point in Time Count that surveyed homeless individuals in the city, 80% of individuals experience substance use, and 61% report living with mental health issues[7]. In addition, 63% of people reported visiting the emergency department in the last year.

Supportive housing solutions would address the gap for individuals living with mental health and/or addiction issues to find stable housing, while also receiving supports that require complex treatment solutions. The value of the supports provided and received in a supportive housing environment would be seen in a reduction to emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and police intervention[8].

In addition, an increase to the current transitional and supportive housing stock is central to TBDSSAB's new 10-Year Housing and Homelessness plan. Based on recommendations received from OrgCode Consulting, who assessed the homelessness service system in the District; transitional and supportive housing is necessary to address the cycle of homelessness and addictions. OrgCode's recommendations includes a housing projection of an additional 475 transitional and supportive units by 2030, 280 of which should be added by 2027. While the TBDSSAB has continued to add to its supportive housing stock, the projections highlight an increasing need for housing with the required supports available.

To address this need, TBDSSAB plans to work with agencies, such as NorWest Community Health Centres who leads the Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub, to coordinate opportunities for expanded supportive housing solutions. In the District of Thunder Bay, the previous Consumption and Treatment Services Site (Path 525) was transitioned into a HART hub. Currently, the 'hub'

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[5] High Needs Homeless prioritizes people experiencing chronic homelessness on the TBDSSAB housing waitlist.
[6] BNL numbers are reported as of the end of 2025.
[7] Lakehead Social Planning Council, Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, Lakehead University, and Thunder Bay District Health Unit (2024) https://infograph.venngage.com/pl/jWe8WLXZHI?flipBook=1
[8] Ganesan, K., Matte, A., Williams, AR., Wilkie J., Chan., C., O'Connor, K. (2025). Unlocking Solutions: Understanding and Addressing Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions Supportive Housing Needs. AMHO.

provides primary care, employment supports, and mental health and addictions supports. With increased funding, the TBDSSAB and HART Hub could provide housing solutions that address the gaps in care that have been prevalent in the system.

The outcome (for the District) of providing additional funding in the requested area would help improve homelessness prevention supports, provide safe and stable housing spaces, and promote the well-being of residents recovering from/experiencing substance use and living with mental health issues. Without appropriate supports and adequate funding for supportive housing, people plagued with these issues have a much lower likelihood of moving along the housing continuum and could end up relapsing, thereby exacerbating the level of homelessness in the District of Thunder Bay.

Therefore, TBDSSAB requests that the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing provide designated funding in the amount of $4,000,000 for the District of Thunder Bay to support the construction of 40 new supportive housing units and the necessary addictions and mental health supports.

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANITOUWADGE**

**BYLAW NO. 2026 - ___**

**Being a Bylaw to** Appoint a Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) for the Township of Manitouwadge.

**WHEREAS** the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.9 requires every municipality to have an Emergency Management Program; and,

**WHEREAS** Section 10 of Ontario Regulation 380/04 requires that every municipality shall designate an employee of the municipality as its emergency management program coordinator; and

**WHEREAS** Council deems it expedient and desirable to appoint a Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) for the Corporation of the Township of Manitouwadge;

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Manitouwadge enacts as follows:

1. **THAT** Scott Trach, Fire Chief is hereby appointed as the Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) for the Township of Manitouwadge;

2. **THAT** Tyler Brewster, Director of Public Works is hereby appointed as the Alternate Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC), in the absence of the CEMC, for the Township of Manitouwadge;

3. **THAT** this Bylaw shall be known as the “CEMC Appointment Bylaw”;

4. **THAT** Bylaw 2025-19 is hereby repealed;

5. **THAT** this Bylaw comes into force and takes effect on the date of its final passing.

**READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME** this 8th day of July, 2026 and
**READ A THIRD TIME AND FINALLY ENACTED** this 8th day of July, 2026.

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| Mayor Jim Moffat | Joleen Keough, Clerk |

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANITOUWADGE**

**BYLAW NO. 2026 - ___**

**Being a Bylaw to** Confirm Proceedings of the Council of the Township of Manitouwadge at its Regular Meeting held Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

**WHEREAS** Subsection 5(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, provides that the powers of a municipal corporation are to be exercised by its council; and,

**WHEREAS** Subsection 5(3) of the said Municipal Act, 2001, provides that all municipal power including the municipality's capacity, rights, powers and privileges under section 9, shall be exercised by bylaw unless the municipality is specifically authorized to do otherwise; and,

**WHEREAS** it is deemed expedient that the proceedings of the Council of the Township of Manitouwadge at this meeting be confirmed and adopted by bylaw;

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the Township of Manitouwadge enacts as follows:

1. **THAT** the action of the Council of the Township of Manitouwadge in respect of each recommendation or resolution contained in the minutes of the regular council meeting of Wednesday, July 8, 2026 and any reports of committees and of local boards and each motion and resolution passed and other action taken by the Council of the Township of Manitouwadge at this meeting is hereby adopted and confirmed as if all such proceedings were expressly embodied in this bylaw.

2. **THAT** the Mayor and the appropriate officials of the Township of Manitouwadge are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the action of the Council of the Township of Manitouwadge referred to in the proceeding section.

3. **THAT** the Mayor, or in the absence of the Mayor, the alternate head of council and the Municipal Clerk, or in the absence of the Municipal Clerk, the Acting Clerk, are authorized and directed to execute all documents necessary in that behalf and to affix thereto the corporate seal of the Township of Manitouwadge.

**READ** a first time short and passed this 8th day of July, 2026.

Mayor Jim Moffat

Joleen Keough, Clerk