



## COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Healthy, Sustainable Communities

**Date: Wednesday, April 26, 2023**

**Time: 12:00 PM**

**Location: In person in DNSSAB Boardroom or virtually via link below:**

Join Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82331276146?pwd=ZTgzNVVoREtrQkI3RTVReEsra3Qrdz09>

Meeting ID: 823 3127 6146

Passcode: 69771171

One tap mobile

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**Councillor Lana Mitchell** (Chair), Councillor Melanie Chenier (Vice Chair), Mayor Peter Chirico, Councillor Maggie Horsfield, Councillor Terry Kelly, Councillor Mark King, Councillor Justine Mallah, Councillor Chris Mayne, Mayor Dan O'Mara.

Item	Topic
1.0	<b>1.1 CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL</b>  <b>1.2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest</b>
2.0	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b>
3.0	<b>APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (April 26, 2023)</b>  <b>MOTION #CS2023-12</b> THAT the Community Services Committee accepts the Agenda as presented.

Item	Topic
4.0	<p><b>DELEGATIONS</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Food Security</b> - by Erin Reyce, Nipissing Parry Sound Health Unit</p> <p><b>4.2 SSE02-23 Income and Poverty in Nipissing District</b> – Michelle Glabb, Director-Social Services and Employment.</p> <p><b>MOTION #CS2023-13</b></p> <p>WHEREAS, adequate income is an important social determinant of health that greatly impacts food security and other determinants of health;</p> <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the DNSSAB endorse the letter from the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit attached as Appendix C as it aligns with Report SSE02-23 and call on the Province of Ontario to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• legislate targets for the reduction of food insecurity as part of the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy; and</li> <li>• increase social assistance rates to reflect the costs of living, and to index Ontario Works rates to inflation going forward; and</li> <li>• urge the province to resume investigating the feasibility of creating a guaranteed living wage (basic income) in the Province of Ontario; and</li> </ul> <p>FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the DNSSAB provide correspondence of this resolution to the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit as well as provincial and federal ministers with accountability for the social determinants of health; and</p> <p>THAT the Board receives report SSE02-23 on Income and Poverty in Nipissing District (Appendix A) and infographic (Appendix B), as the first in a series of reports on income and poverty describing income distribution in Nipissing District and comparisons to social assistance income.</p>
5.0	<p><b>CONSENT AGENDA</b> - <i>All items in the consent agenda are voted on collectively. The Chair will call out each item for consideration of discussion. Any item can be singled out for separate vote; then, only the remaining items will be voted on collectively.</i></p> <p><b>MOTION #CS2023-14</b></p> <p>THAT the Committee receives for information or approval Consent Agenda item 5.1 to 5.3.</p> <p><b>5.1 CS04-23 - Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System Policy</b></p> <p>THAT the District of Nipissing Social Services Administrative Board (DNSSAB) accepts and adopts Policy 5CS-ADM-13 related to the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System, attached as Appendix A and as described in briefing note CS04-23.</p>

Item	Topic
	<p><b>5.2 CS02-23 – Knowing Our Numbers (KON) Project</b> – This report provides information on the Knowing Our Numbers (KON) Project, designed to offer local and provincial child care data, to support planning and investment decisions.</p> <p><b>5.3 CS03-23 Children’s Services One-Time Special Purpose Funding Policies</b> - THAT the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board accept and approve the updated one-time special purpose funding policies as listed below and described in briefing note CS03-23:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Policy: Transformation Funding (Appendix A)</li> <li>2) Policy: Play-Based Materials and Equipment Funding (Appendix B)</li> <li>3) Policy: Repairs and Maintenance Funding (Appendix C)</li> </ol>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>MANAGERS REPORTS</b>
	<p><b>6.1 SSE03-23 Ontario Works Transitional Support Case Management Community Integration Plan</b> – this report provides details on the Ontario Works (OW) Transitional Support Case Management Community Integration Plan for information purposes.</p>
	<p><b>6.2 HS09-23 Centralized Waitlist, Service Levels and COHB Update</b> – this report provides an update on the centralized waitlist, service levels for rent-geared-to-income assistance, and COHB, for information.</p>
	<b>OTHER BUSINESS</b>
	<p><b>NEXT MEETING DATE</b> Wednesday, June 28, 2023</p>
<b>7.0</b>	<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p> <p><b>MOTION #CS2023-15</b> <i>Resolved</i> THAT the Community Services Committee meeting be adjourned at ____.</p>

# The 2022 Cost of Eating Well

Monitoring Food Affordability in  
the North Bay Parry Sound District

01/01/2022

12/31/2022

North Bay Parry Sound District  
**Health Unit**  
  
**Bureau de santé**  
du district de North Bay-Parry Sound

Presented by:

Erin Reyce, RD

Public Health Dietitian

North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit



## Let's unpack...

---

- Food insecurity
- Monitoring food affordability
- The need for income-based solutions

# What is food insecurity?

= Inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints



## Marginal

Worrying about not having enough money for food...



## Moderate

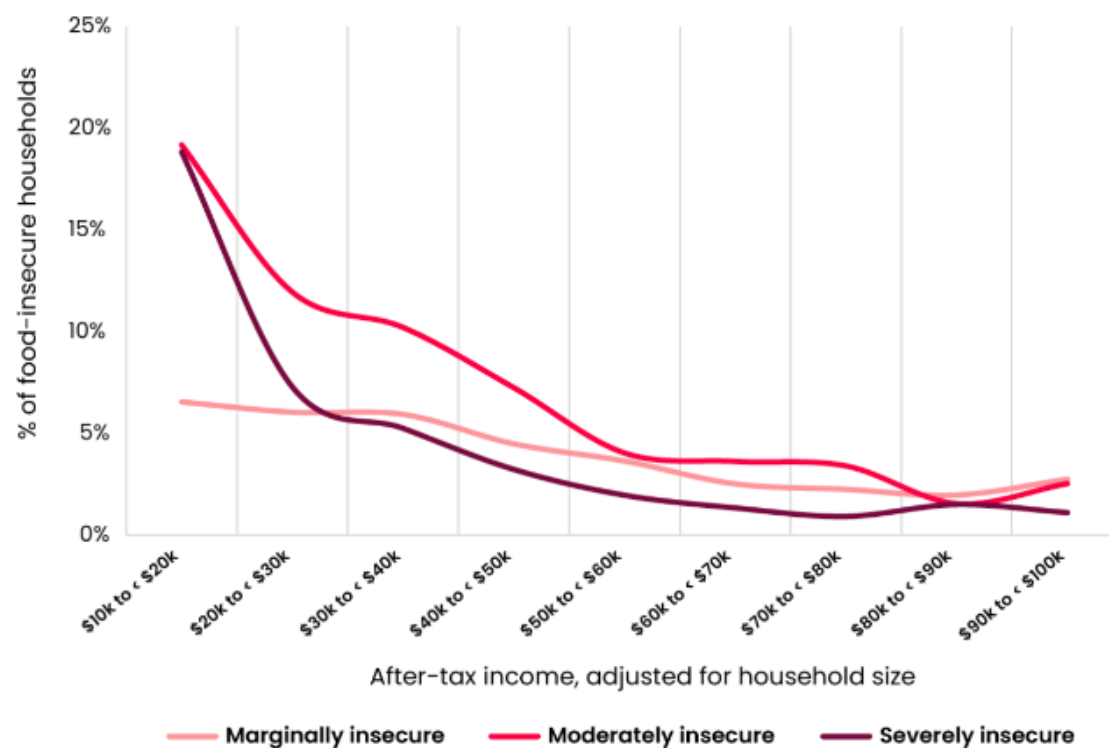
Relying on less nutritious foods...



## Severe

Skipping meals and going without food...

# Food insecurity in Canada by household income



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Income Survey (CIS) 2020.

Retrieved from: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/who-are-most-at-risk-of-household-food-insecurity/>

# Food insecurity is a serious public health problem.

1 in 6 households experience food insecurity in Ontario

1 in 5 children live in a food insecure household in Ontario

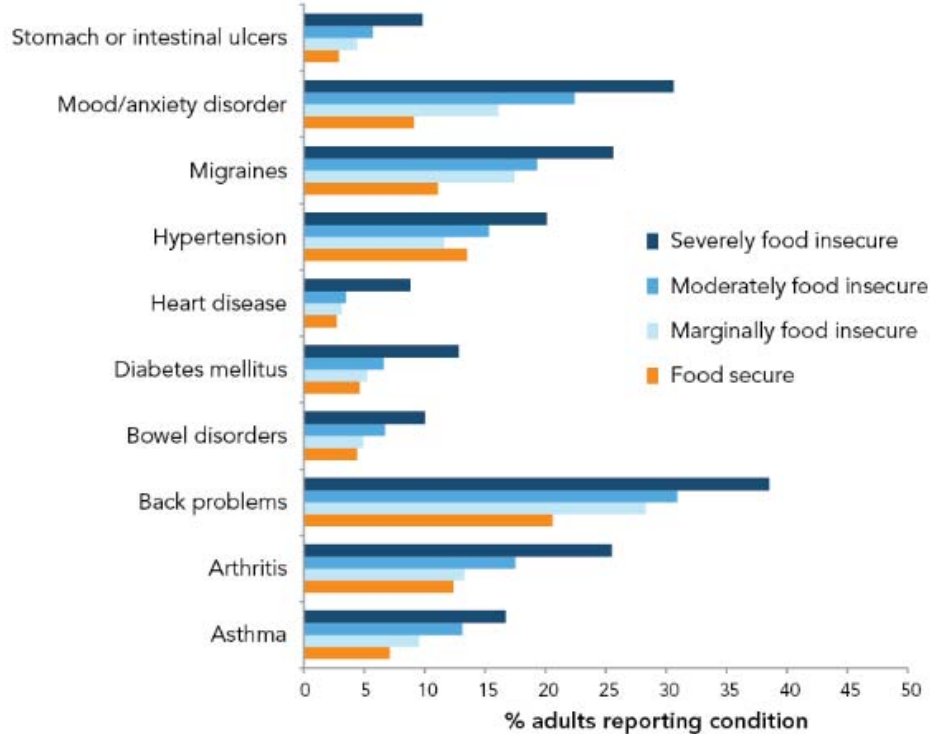
The health consequences of experiencing food insecurity are severe





# Food insecurity and health

Prevalence of chronic conditions among Canadian adults, (18-64 years) of age, by household food security status<sup>6</sup>



Adults living in food insecure households are more likely to:

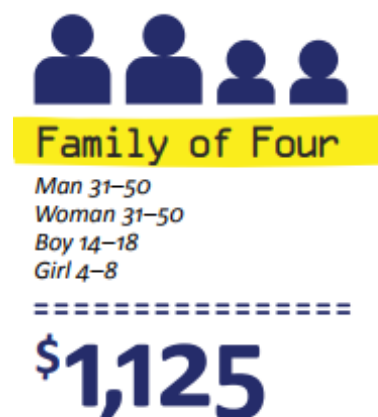
- Have difficulty managing chronic conditions<sup>3</sup>
- Not take prescription medications as prescribed due to cost<sup>10</sup>
- Have higher health care usage<sup>11,12</sup>
- Die prematurely<sup>6</sup>



**How is the NBPSDHU contributing to what is known about food insecurity in Ontario?**

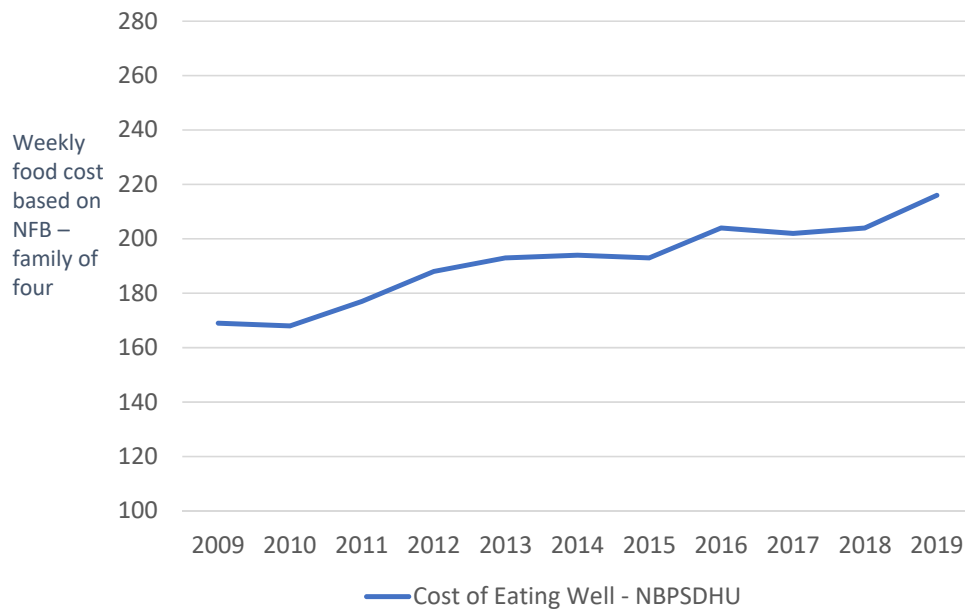
# The Nutritious Food Basket

- Annually, Health Units monitor food costs locally using the Nutritious Food Basket
- 12 grocery stores are included in our Health Unit district each year to survey the cost of foods consistent with Canada's Food Guide
- In 2022, the monthly cost of eating well for a family of four in our Health Unit district was \$1,125

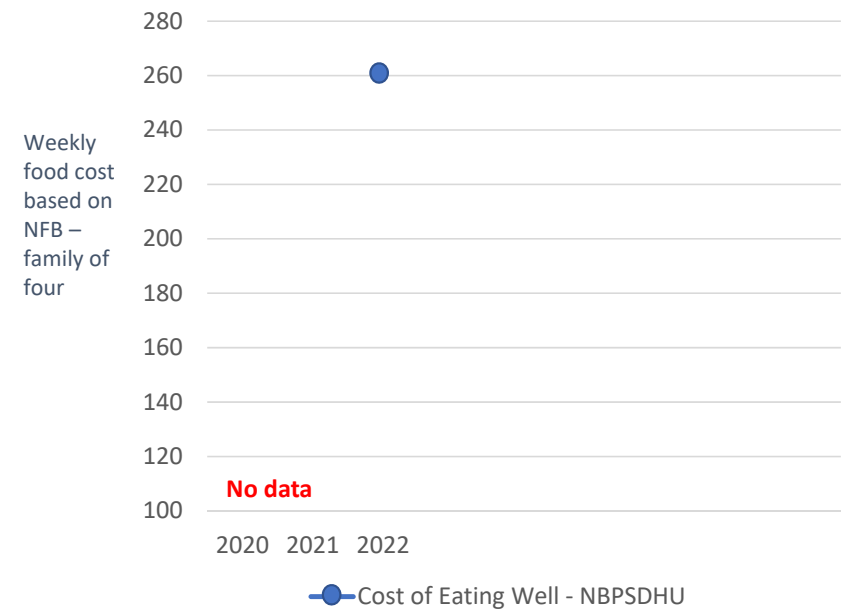


# The cost of food is increasing.

## 2009-2019



## 2022



# Monitoring food affordability



## Single man receiving Ontario Works

This person does not have enough money to cover rent and food in a month, or their other costs of living. Current social assistance rates in Ontario are not based on the real costs of living. There are few income supports in place for working aged adults without children, leaving them in extreme poverty should they be unemployed.

=====	
Monthly income:*	\$876
Rent (bachelor apartment):	\$650
Food:	\$404
=====	

**-\$178**



## Single woman with 2 kids receiving Ontario Works

It is highly unlikely that the \$688 remaining after paying for rent and food will be enough to cover this family's monthly expenses. Parents in Canada are eligible for the Canada/Ontario Child Benefit (CCB), which provides a seemingly significant amount of money monthly for low-income households. Yet, 1 in 5 children in Ontario live in a food insecure household, suggesting the CCB does not provide enough money to protect against food insecurity.

=====	
Monthly income:*	\$2548
Rent (2 bedroom apartment):	\$1032
Food:	\$828
=====	

**\$688**

**Social assistance rates are too low.**

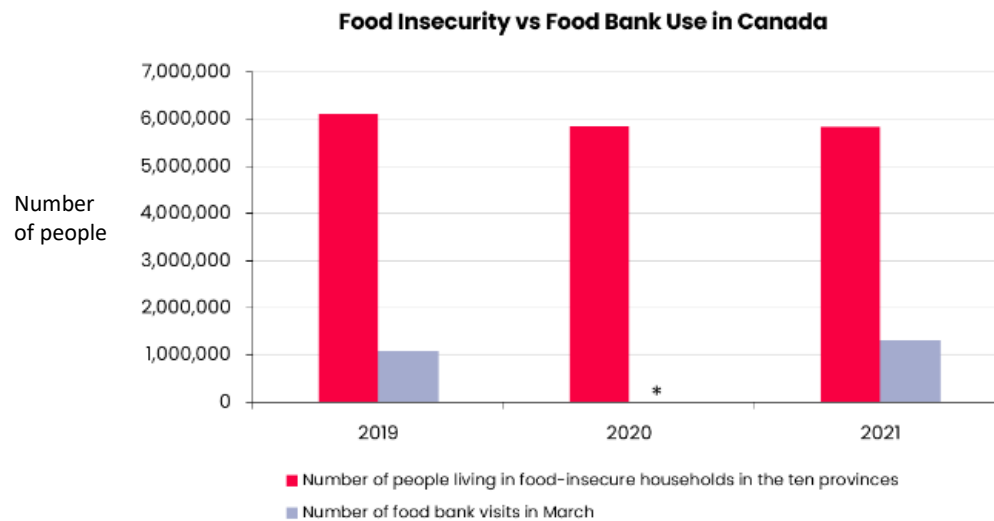
# Solutions to food insecurity?

Community food programs do not reduce food insecurity because they don't address income

= food banks, meal programs, community gardens, community kitchens, etc.

**Paying for food  
is just the tip of  
the iceberg.**





**Data source:** Statistics on food insecurity estimated from the Canadian Income Survey (CIS) 2018-2020, collected in 2019-2021. Statistics on food bank usage represent the number of visits made to food banks in March of 2019 and 2021 reported by Food Banks Canada in its 2019 and 2021 HungerCount report.  
\*There was no count of food bank visits in March of 2020 due to pandemic-related disruptions.

**Food insecurity only tells part of the story.**

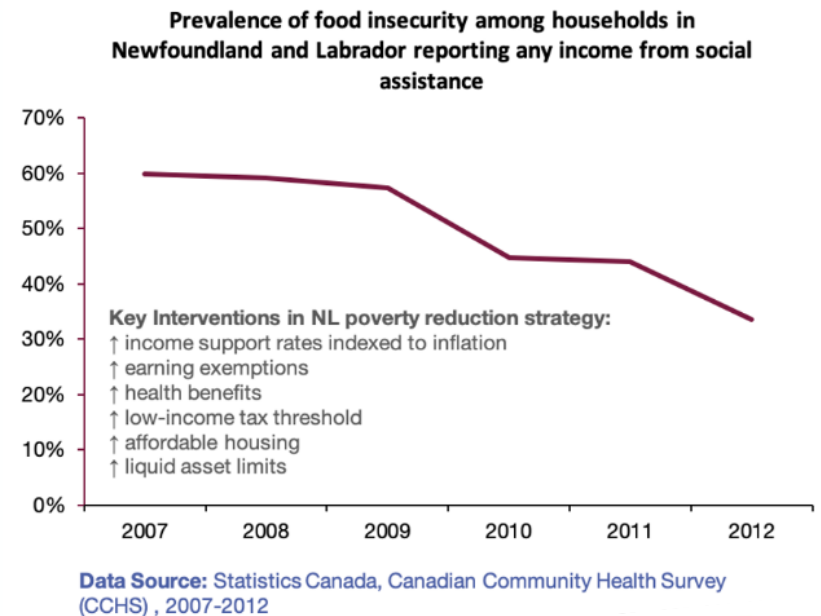
**Households who struggle to pay for food also struggle to pay for the other costs of living.**

Retrieved from: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/what-can-be-done-to-reduce-food-insecurity-in-canada/>



# Income programs = Population health interventions

- Population health interventions =
  - policies or programs that shift the distribution of health risk by addressing the underlying social, economic and environmental conditions across a population
- Income transfer programs greatly impact many social determinants of health
  - Numerous Canadian examples in recent years have validated this, and they can reduce food insecurity on a population level



**67% of households in Ontario with social assistance as their main income are food insecure.<sup>1</sup>**



# Summary

- 1 in 6 households in Ontario are food insecure.
- Food insecurity greatly impacts health and well-being.
- Income solutions are needed to address this issue for the long term.

**Food insecurity is  
an income problem**



North Bay Perry Sound District  
**Health Unit**  
  
**Bureau de santé**  
du district de North Bay Perry Sound

# Questions?

Erin Reyce, RD

Public Health Dietitian

Healthy Living Team

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[Myhealthunit.ca/foodinsecurity](https://myhealthunit.ca/foodinsecurity)



## BOARD REPORT    SSE02-23

☐ For Information or ☒ For Approval

**Date:** April 26, 2023

**Purpose:** **Income and Poverty in Nipissing District**

**Prepared by:** Michelle Glabb, Director of Social Services

**Reviewed by:** Justin Avery, Manager of Finance

**Approved by:** Catherine Matheson, Chief Administrative Officer

### ***Alignment with Strategic Plan: Healthy, Sustainable Communities***

☐ Maximize Impact    ☒ Remove Barriers    ☐ Seamless Access    ☐ Learn & Grow

### **RECOMMENDATION**

WHEREAS, adequate income is an important social determinant of health that greatly impacts food security and other determinants of health;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the DNSSAB endorse the letter from the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit attached as Appendix C as it aligns with Report SSE02-23 and call on the Province of Ontario to:

- legislate targets for the reduction of food insecurity as part of the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy; and
- increase social assistance rates to reflect the costs of living, and to index Ontario Works rates to inflation going forward; and
- urge the province to resume investigating the feasibility of creating a guaranteed living wage (basic income) in the Province of Ontario; and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the DNSSAB provide correspondence of this resolution to the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit as well as provincial and federal ministers with accountability for the social determinants of health; and

THAT the Board receives report SSE02-23 on Income and Poverty in Nipissing District (Appendix A) and infographic ( Appendix B), as the first in a series of reports on income and poverty describing income distribution in Nipissing District and comparisons to social assistance income.

## **BACKGROUND**

Poverty is a complex issue that has significant impacts on individuals, families and society as a whole. On an individual and family level, living in poverty makes it exceptionally difficult to meet basic needs, like food and shelter. At the societal level, high poverty rates impinge economic growth and are often associated to a number of social problems including crime, poor health, low levels of education and addiction.

Defining poverty is difficult as there are various methods used to measure poverty, with each measurement having its own advantages and disadvantages. Statistics Canada uses three general low-income measures; Low Income Cut-Off (LICO), Low Income Measure (LIM) and the Market Basket Measure (MBM). While the official poverty line in Canada is defined using the MBM, the 2021 census MBM data sets have not yet been published. As such, the Low Income Measure-After Tax (LIM-AT) has been used to identify low-income thresholds in this report.

Variables, like inflation, impact those living in poverty as do the systems designed to respond to the impacts of living on a low income. For example, inflation influences the ability to participate in the economy. As the cost to purchase goods and services that are essential to a person's health and well-being increase, the purchasing power of individuals and families without relative increases to income decline. In the context of the report, this is of significance given that the general population has seen a rise in income since the 2016 census. Conversely and as illustrated in the Report, social assistance rates have not kept pace with inflation placing this population at an even greater risk to not having even their basic needs met.

## **CURRENT STATUS AND STEPS TAKEN TO DATE**

As a mandate of DNSSAB is to administer the Ontario Works program, one of Ontario's two social assistance programs, a broad understanding of poverty and the income disparities that exist, is important to help inform decision-making at the program level. This information can also assist municipalities to better understand the needs of their communities. As such, the current report and associated infographic, included as Appendix A and B, provide income comparisons relating to median income, income sources, and low-income measures based on 2021 census data at the municipal, district and provincial levels. They also compare OW income levels to ODSP, inflation, minimum wage, median income and LIM-AT.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Low income and poverty are complex issues that have a range of contributing factors. In an effort to provide additional insight, the next report in the series will focus on income and poverty as it relates to housing and homelessness in Nipissing District.

## **CONCLUSION**

In Ontario, there are two main programs to combat poverty: Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). As illustrated in the Infographic attached as Appendix B, while ODSP rates are significantly higher and provide more extensive

supports and benefits than OW, the rates associated with both programs fall well below low-income thresholds. This is of significant importance given that 7.9% of the population in Nipissing District is in receipt of social assistance (OW or ODSP). As a result, social assistance recipients, especially OW recipients, are living in poverty. In view of the Board's vision for *healthy and sustainable communities* and working to remove systemic barriers such as disparities in income and poverty, this report and those to follow will serve to inform the Board's advocacy, policy development, planning, and service delivery across the program areas.



### INCOME AND POVERTY IN NIPISSING DISTRICT, REPORT # 1:

This is the first report in a series of income & poverty reports to the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board. Report # 1 describes income distribution in Nipissing District and Ontario based on the recent 2021 census income data. The analysis includes the distribution of income sources and the prevalence of low income as measured by national low-income lines, followed by relevant Social Assistance income comparisons.

DISTRICT OF NIPISSING SOCIAL  
SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD  
OCTOBER 20, 2022

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# Executive Summary

This is the first report in a series which focus on income and poverty in Nipissing District. In view of the Board's vision for *healthy and sustainable communities* and working to remove systemic barriers such as disparities in income and poverty, the reports will serve to inform the Board's advocacy, policy development, planning, and service delivery across the program areas.

For the first report, the recent 2021 census conducted by Statistics Canada provides an opportunity to update the Board on income distribution and low-income lines in Nipissing District and its municipalities and areas. The following is a summary of the main report and the key findings from the research and data analysis.

Nearly two-thirds of the households in Nipissing District are comprised of *families* (with and without children), while close to another third is comprised of *single (non-family) households*. Other, *non-family households* account for the relatively small number of remaining households. The median household income for the above family households in the district is \$72,500 although this varies significantly depending on household composition and family type. For example, median income ranges between \$36,000 for single households to two-and-a-half times that amount for families (\$96,000).

After adjusting for inflation, the district has experienced real household income growth of 10.7%, or about \$7,000 since the previous 2016 census. This growth rate also varies across the different family household types, ranging from 8.3% (\$6,500) for families without children to 26.7% (\$12,400) for lone-parent families. The government's pandemic emergency and relief benefits during 2020 helped to offset lost employment income and is likely reflected in the income growth rates.

Household median income is fairly consistent across the district's municipalities, although there is some notable variation. Starting with the outliers, household income in East Ferris (\$109,000) is about 20.0% higher than the province (below) and over twice the household income in Mattawa (\$53,200). Chisholm and Bonfield also have relatively high household incomes in the upper \$70k range and about \$5,000 above the district median. Income then starts to drop off in the mid-upper \$60k range in West Nipissing, Nipissing First Nation, and Temagami, and, apart from Mattawa, is lowest in South Algonquin (\$61,200). The remaining municipalities and areas for which census income data is reported, have incomes that are consistent with the district median (+/- \$1k).

Compared to the province, Nipissing District's income is significantly lower. For example, Ontario's median income (\$91,000) is 25.5% higher, or \$18,500 more, than in Nipissing District. In dollar terms, the difference in income between the province and district across the various household types, ranges from \$9,000 more for Ontario families with children to \$18,000 more for other family households. In relative terms, Ontario household incomes are higher in the range of 7.0% for families with children to 21.1% for single households. When compared across Ontario's 49 census divisions / service management areas, Nipissing is in the lowest quartile of household income distribution (along with most other districts in Northern Ontario) and has the fifth lowest household income in the province.

Turning to the individual income sources of family household members, *market income* accounts for the majority (77.0%) of income in Nipissing District and a little over four-fifths of the Nipissing population had some amount of market income. This includes income from employment, investment, private retirement, and other money market sources. The remaining (23.0%) of total income in the district comes from *government transfers*, which are cash benefits received from federal, provincial, territorial or municipal governments. The majority (89%) of Nipissing's population received some amount of government income in 2020, which is a steep increase from 73.6% in the previous census. This increase has also been observed at the national and provincial level and is largely attributed to the government's COVID-19 pandemic emergency and recovery benefits, which were widespread across the population. Of particular relevance and interest to the Board concerning government transfers, the median social assistance income (OW & ODSP) captured by the census is \$11,400, which is less than one-third the median income for single households (Table 2) in the district's general population. Additionally, 8.0% of Nipissing's population receives social assistance, which is close to twice that of the province (4.4%).

As with household income, there is variation in the share of market and government transfer income across the district's municipalities and areas. East Ferris and Mattawa remain on the high and low-end of the distribution, respectively. Whereas market income accounts for the majority (84.6%) of total income in East Ferris, it represents just two-thirds of income in Mattawa. The other one-third of income in Mattawa comes from government transfers (vs. 15.3% in East Ferris). This helps to explain the large difference in household income between the two, described earlier. With East Ferris and Mattawa removed from the analysis, the share of market and government income ranges across the district from 78.4% and 21.4% respectively, in Papineau-Cameron to 68.4% and 31.8% in South Algonquin.

Compared to Ontario, a smaller share of income in Nipissing District derives from market sources and a larger share is from government transfers, which helps to explain the lower incomes in Nipissing District. For example, whereas a little over three-quarters (77.0%) of Nipissing's total income is market income, the provincial share of market income is 6.0% higher at 83.0%. Conversely, income from government transfers is 6.0% higher in Nipissing District, accounting for 23.0% of total income (versus 17.0% for the province). When compared across Ontario's 49 census divisions / service management areas, the district's composition of market income (77%) and government transfers (23%) places it towards the low end of the market income distribution. Along with five other areas that have the same income composition, Nipissing District has one of the lowest shares of market income and highest shares of government transfers in the province.

Turning to low income measures, the income study intended to use Canada's official poverty line - the Market Basket Measure (MBM) - to establish the extent of poverty in Nipissing District. However, Statistics Canada has not yet published the 2021 census MBM data and these datasets are currently unavailable. In the meantime, the Low Income Measure-After Tax (LIM-AT) is used to gauge the extent of relative low income of the population living in private households in Nipissing District. (Note: subsequent reports in the series will analyze the MBM data when it becomes available).

Based on the Low Income Measure-After Tax, 13.0% of persons in private households in Nipissing District are living in low income. In absolute terms, this amounts to close to 11,000 people. The percentage of people living in low-income varies widely across the district's

municipalities and areas, ranging from 6.0% in East Ferris to three and a half times this amount (21.0%) in Mattawa.

Compared to the province (10.0%), the prevalence of low income in Nipissing District is 3.0% higher. This is in keeping with the earlier findings of Nipissing's relatively higher share of government transfers and lower income, in general. When looking at the LIM-AT measure across Ontario's 49 census divisions / service management areas, the areas with the highest prevalence of low income in the province include Nipissing and seven other districts in Northern Ontario.

The updated census income data and analysis above also provides further context and understanding around OW social assistance rates and income. For example, where inflation is concerned, although there has been real income growth for the general population since the 2016 census, there has been no growth for OW rates over most of this period let alone at the inflation rate or higher. Additionally, the annual income for a single Ontario Works recipient with no other income is about \$8,800, which is one-quarter the median income (\$36,000) for a single household in Nipissing District. The above OW income is also only one-third, or \$17,700 less than, the low-income threshold for a single household as measured by the LIM-AT (\$26,503). By any measure, this illustrates the depth of poverty facing many social assistance recipients in the district and province.

# 1.0 Preamble

## 1.1 Introduction

The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) plays a major role in providing various human services to residents throughout Nipissing District, including to those who are marginalized and have low incomes. With a vision for *healthy and sustainable communities*, the Board looks forward to seeing communities where residents have the social and economic conditions and opportunities they need to develop to their maximum potential. Working to remove systemic barriers such as disparities in income and poverty is fundamental to achieving the Board's vision and individual well-being for Nipissing residents.

## 1.2 Purpose

In view of the above, the recent 2021 census conducted by Statistics Canada provides an opportunity to update the Board on income distribution and the national low-income lines. The analysis will look at income and sources for Nipissing District and its municipalities and areas, and the extent to which low income exists as measured by the recent census Low Income Measure (LIM). Social assistance income is also analyzed alongside the census data to provide an additional perspective on the income of the Board's Ontario Works clients.

The updates on income and poverty will occur over a series of reports for the Board, starting in September 2022. The report series will serve to further inform the Board's advocacy, policy development, planning, and service delivery across the program areas.

## 1.3 Scope

The first report in the series will provide a descriptive analysis of the 2021 census and provincial social assistance income in Ontario. The income data will also be cross-referenced with age and family household type, and analyzed at various levels of geography including Ontario's Census Divisions and Service Manager areas, and Nipissing District and its municipalities and areas.

The remaining reports in the series will focus on poverty as measured by Canada's official poverty line, the Market Basket Measure (MBM) when the data becomes available.<sup>1</sup> The future reports will also provide further analysis of social assistance income relative to the cost of housing and food - generally accepted as two of life's basic necessities and a household's biggest expense. Other relevant topics related to the root causes of social assistance dependency and length of time on assistance will also be discussed.

<sup>1</sup> In 2018 the Government of Canada implemented its first poverty reduction strategy, *Opportunity for All*, and adapted the Market Basket Measure as Canada's official poverty line (under the Poverty Reduction Act, 2019). At the time of this report, the census 2021 MBM data has not been published by Statistics Canada and is unavailable.

## 1.4 Methodology

The study is a basic observational, cross-sectional design and the data is analyzed and presented through descriptive statistics using common summary measures (median) and frequency distributions.

Unless otherwise stated, the income data in the reports is sourced from Canada's 2021 census and Ontario Works rate charts.

### 1.4.1 Limitations

The reports uses the Low Income Measure, After Tax as the sole proxy for determining low-income levels. While many could argue that income is the main predictor of poverty and other inequalities in life, this approach leaves out other factors and considerations when measuring the extent of low income family households and poverty.

The analysis in the report is based on data collected at a specific point in time and presents a cross-sectional view of income and the census Low Income Measure (LIM). Under this study method, the stated low income levels do not take into account the length of time spent living in low-income.

Statistics Canada has suppressed the income data for Bear Island, Nipissing South, and Mattawan for confidentiality purposes.

## 2.0 Income Notes and Definitions

### 2.1 Census Income

For the 2021 Census, the reference period for all income variables is the calendar year (2020) prior to the census, unless otherwise stated.

Similar to the previous census, administrative files were the sole source of income for the 2021 census and the income data has been derived for the entire population and all households.<sup>2</sup>

The census income data in this report refers to *total income*, which is the sum of income from various sources (see Appendix 1). Generally, these income sources can be rolled up into two broad categories: *market income* (employment, investment, private retirement, and other money from market sources) and *government transfers* (all cash benefits received from federal, provincial, territorial or municipal governments). The income components used to calculate total income vary depending on the unit of analysis (i.e. individuals, families, or households).

The pandemic and the government's COVID relief benefits and transfers has significantly influenced the 2020 incomes, patterns, and trends. These impacts will be reported as they arise in the report.

<sup>2</sup> Prior to 2016, the census income data was collected through various methods including self-enumeration, and combinations of self-reporting and administrative data such as tax and benefit returns. Additionally, the income data was only collected from a sample of households.

## 2.2 Low Income Definitions

Like some other areas of inequality and deprivation (homelessness for example), measuring the extent of poverty in a given community can vary depending on the approach, methodology, data source, and information and data used in the measurement. By extension, the rate of poverty can vary widely depending on the chosen measure and application.<sup>3</sup> For the purpose of these reports, the low-income lines developed by Statistics Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) will be used and referenced in the analysis.

Statistics Canada currently uses three general low-income measures to describe the low-income status of the Canadian population. These measures are the *Low Income Cutoff (LICO)*; *Low Income Measure (LIM)* and the *Market Basket Measure (MBM)*. The LICO and LIM measures are further broken down by a *before-tax* and *after-tax* income component, providing five different low-income measures that can be used depending on the study objectives and analysis. It should be noted that in the past, Statistics Canada has repeatedly cautioned that these low-income lines ‘are not measures of poverty’, rather, they present a consistent and well-defined methodology to identify ‘those who are substantially worse off than average’. More recently, however, the national statistics agency recognizes the MBM as Canada’s official poverty line since being adopted by the federal government in 2019.

Each low-income measure has a unique perspective on low income and measures income in a different way. Additionally, they each have strengths and weaknesses and one is not necessarily better than the other. As the low-income lines can also have different units of measurement (e.g., families vs. households), they are generally not directly comparable, either. The choice of which measure to use is more dependent on factors such as the research or study objective, design, and data collection and availability. More recently, the MBM has gained popularity since being adopted by the federal government as Canada’s official poverty line, and by Ontario in the provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy. The three measures are summarized below (see also, Appendix 2 for table summary).

### 2.2.1 Low Income Cut-off (LICO)

The LICO is generally a *relative* measure, whereby a person or family is considered to be living in low income or poverty if they spend significantly more than others on life’s necessities. For example, the national LICO is an income threshold below which, a family, household, or individual is likely to spend 20% or more than the average, on the necessities of food, clothing, and shelter. The income thresholds are based on expenditure patterns taken from the Family Expenditure Survey (1992) and adjusted to current dollars. LICO is calculated for different family and community sizes, and is broken down into either before-tax (LICO-BT) or after-tax (LICO-AT) income.

### 2.2.2 Low Income Measure (LIM)

The LIM is also a relative measure, whereby a household is considered to be living in low income or poverty if its income is significantly lower than other households. Under the national

<sup>3</sup> For example, based on 2021 census income data, 4.2% of individuals in Nipissing District are living below the Low-income cut-off, after-tax (LICO-AT) while 13.0% of individuals are living below the Low-income measure, after-tax (LIM-AT).

LIM, a household or persons living in the household, is deemed low income if the *adjusted* household income falls below half of the median *adjusted* income for private households. The ‘adjustment’ in the measure takes household size and economies of scale into account, recognizing that as the size of the household increases so do the household needs, but at a decreasing rate.<sup>4</sup> The LIM however, does not take into account community size or the difference in the cost of living across different areas, regions, etc. The LIM also has before- tax (LIM-BT) and after-tax (LIM-AT) income components.

### 2.2.3 Market Basket Measure (MBM)

The Market Basket Measure (MBM) is generally an *absolute* measure, whereby a family is considered to be living in low income or poverty if their family income falls below a minimum level required to meet basic needs. The national MBM establishes a low-income threshold that is based on the cost of a specific basket of goods and services that represent a modest, basic standard of living. The basket includes shelter, food, clothing, transportation and other necessities. The MBM base calculation is for a reference family consisting of two adults and two children, and an equivalence scale that accounts for family size (similar to the LIM) adjusts this. The MBM is calculated for 53 different regions in Canada, recognizing the possible differences in the cost of the basket between similar-sized communities in different provinces and between different regions within provinces. As Canada’s official measure of poverty, families with disposable income less than the MBM thresholds are deemed to be living in poverty.

## 2.3 Social Assistance Income

As DNSSAB administers one of the two social assistance programs included in government transfers noted above in Section 2.1 - Census Income, further detail on Ontario’s social assistance system has been incorporated into this Report. In Ontario, social assistance benefits include Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). Income assistance is calculated on a monthly basis by determining the budgetary requirements of the benefit unit. The amount of income assistance provided will depend on living arrangements, family composition and income of the benefit unit. The main income assistance includes an amount for basic needs and shelter (or board and lodging where applicable), and can include the Remote Communities Allowance, Advanced Age Allowance, Special Diet Allowance, Pregnancy/Breast-feeding Nutritional Allowance and Special Boarder Allowance.

Additionally, Ontario Works recipients may receive other supplementary benefits falling under the categories of mandatory, discretionary and employment related benefits where eligibility for these benefits has been met. Eligibility for supplementary benefits is based on the recipient’s individual circumstances and verified needs. These benefits can be used to pay for necessities such as health services, transportation, clothing, employment related benefits etc. OW recipients also receive varying degrees of coverage for prescription drugs and emergency dental care with the provincial Healthy Smiles program providing dental coverage for children and youth from low-income families under the age of 18.

<sup>4</sup> The household income is adjusted by an equivalence scale which is the square root of the number of people in the household (household income is divided by the equivalence scale and then the adjusted income is assigned to each member of the household).









Furthermore, social assistance recipients with or without children may also have other sources of income that supplement their income assistance as described in Section 2.1, Census Income. Due to the complexity of the Ontario Works Act, some types of supplementary income is considered “chargeable” income meaning it is deducted from a person’s social assistance dollar for dollar while other sources of income are fully exempt or partially exempt depending upon the type of income being declared.

Due to the complexity of Ontario’s social assistance income structure described above, the various 2020 income sources and total income for individuals and families on social assistance in Nipissing District is unknown. Thus, the study does not make direct comparisons between 2020 social assistance and census income at various levels of detail, such as for different family household types (although the census data does include median social assistance income, see table 3). Rather, Ontario Works income is described on its own in the context of the census income for the general population, and comparisons are made based on Ontario Works general income rates.

## 3.0 Household Income 2020

### 3.1 Median Income for Family Households in Nipissing District

The table below shows the distribution of the various household types in Nipissing District captured in the 2021 census, and their respective median incomes. The income reflects ‘total’ income, which as mentioned earlier, comes from various sources (reference Appendix 1).<sup>5</sup> The table also shows the real change (adjusted for inflation) in income from the previous 2016 census:

Table 1. Family Household Type, Nipissing District 2021	Households (#)	Households (%)	Median Income 2020 (\$)	Change since 2015 (2020 constant dollars)
<b>All households</b>	<b>37,250</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>72,500</b>	<b>10.7 %</b> 
Single households	11,730	31.5	36,000	15.4% 
Other, non-family households	1,705	4.6	70,000	20.7% 
Family households	23,820	64.0	96,000	11.6% 
Families without children	10,845	29.1	129,000	10.3% 
Families with children	7,365	19.8	85,000	8.3% 
Lone-parent families	3,470	9.3	58,800	26.7% 
Other family households	2,135	5.7	126,000	23.5% 

<sup>5</sup> In the context of households and families, total income refers to receipts from certain sources of all household/ family members, before income taxes and deductions. The monetary receipts included are those that tend to be of a regular and recurring nature such as employment income, investment income, income from employer and personal pensions, and income from government sources.



- Nearly two-thirds of the households in Nipissing District are comprised of *families*, while close to another third is comprised of *single (non-family) households*. *Other, non-family households* account for the relatively small number of remaining households.<sup>6</sup>
- Within family households, those *without children* account for the largest share (45.5%) in the district followed by those *with children* (31.0%) and *lone-parent families* (14.5%). Other family households account for the remaining 9.0% of families in Nipissing District.<sup>7</sup>
- The median household income in Nipissing District is \$72,500 although this varies significantly depending on household composition and family type. For example, within the census household universe, median income ranges from \$36,000 for single households up to two-and-a-half times that amount for families (\$96,000).
- The income range widens further when looking at family households in more detail, where incomes tend to be higher. For example, families with children and other family households, extend the district's median household income into the \$100,000 + range.
- As noted by the table, the district has experienced real household income growth of 10.7% (\$7,000) since the previous 2016 census.
- The income growth rate has also varied across the various household types, from 8.3% (\$6,500) for families without children to 26.7% (\$12,400) for lone-parent families.
- As noted in a recent income report by Statistics Canada, government pandemic emergency and relief benefits helped to offset lost employment income during the pandemic, which is reflected in the above income growth rates (Statistics Canada, 2022).

## 3.2 Median Income for Family Households in Nipissing District and Ontario

The table on the following page compares the above household income data for Nipissing District, with Ontario as a benchmark:

- As noted in the table, Ontario's median household income is significantly higher across the board for all family household types.
- The overall household median income in Ontario is 25.5% higher, or \$18,500 more, than in Nipissing District.
- In dollar terms, the difference in income between the province and district across the various household types, ranges from \$9,000 more for Ontario families with children to \$18,000 more for other family households.

<sup>6</sup> Other, non-family households are comprised of two or more persons living together but do not constitute a family under the Statistics Canada census family definition.

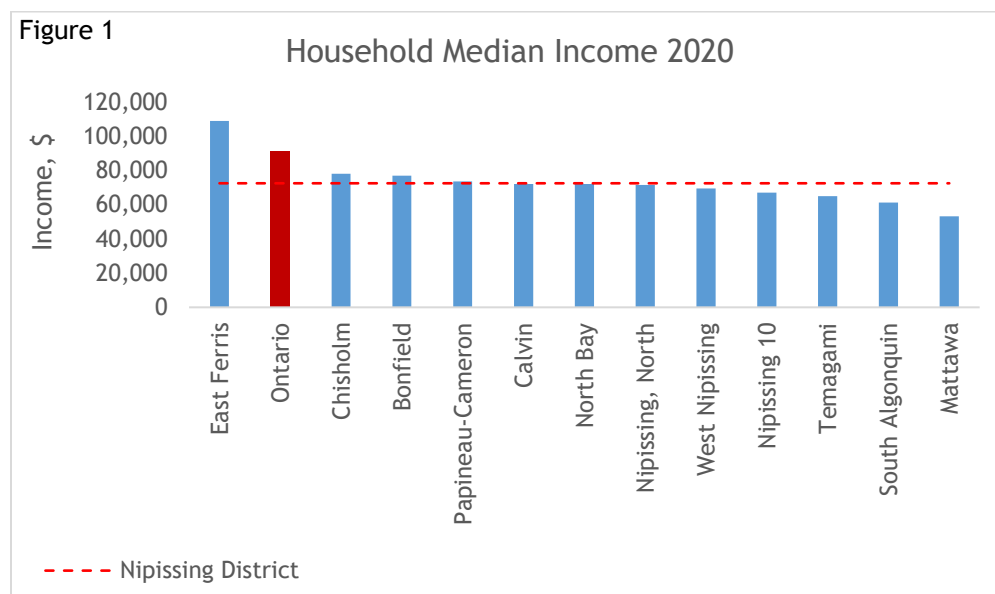
<sup>7</sup> Other family households are those where additional people are living with a family and/or multiple families are living together.

Table 2. Family Household Type, 2021	Nipissing District Median Income (2020)	Ontario Median Income (2020)	Difference (Ontario higher)	
			\$	%
<b>All households</b>	<b>72,500</b>	<b>91,000</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>25.5</b>
Single households	36,000	43,600	7,600	21.1
Other, non-family households	70,000	81,000	11,000	15.7
Family households	96,000	113,000	17,000	17.7
Families with children	129,000	138,000	9,000	7.0
Families without children	85,000	96,000	11,000	12.9
Lone-parent families	58,800	70,500	11,700	19.9
Other family households	126,000	144,000	18,000	14.3

- In relative terms, Ontario household incomes are higher in the range of 7.0% for families with children to 21.1% for single households.

### 3.3 Household Median Income, Nipissing District Municipalities and Areas

Figure 1 below shows the household median income for Nipissing's municipalities and areas that have census income data reported.<sup>8</sup>

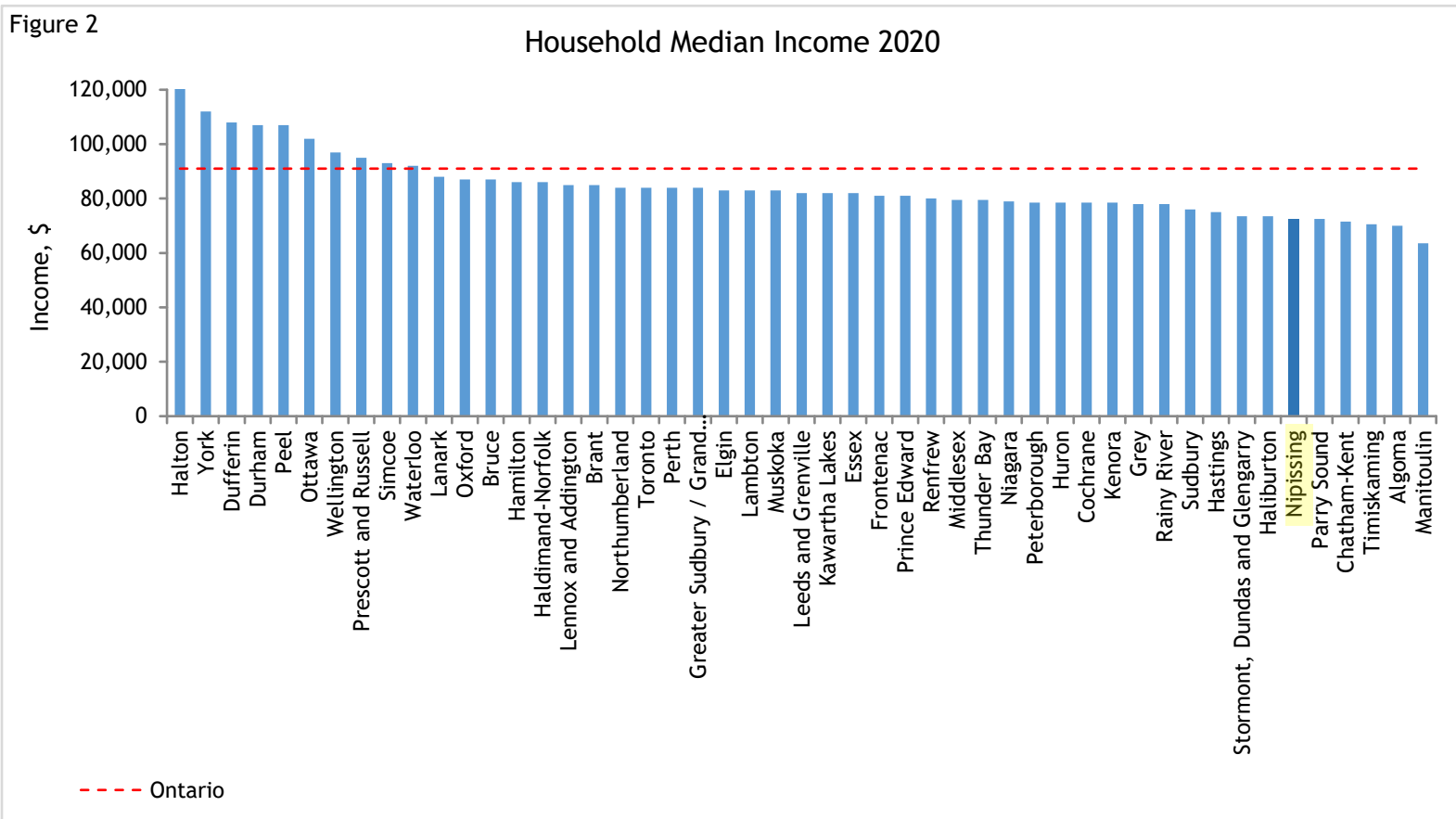


<sup>8</sup> Statistics Canada has suppressed the income data for Bear Island, Nipissing South, and Mattawan for confidentiality purposes.

- Other than the statistical outliers of East Ferris and Mattawa, household income is fairly consistent across the district, with some notable variation.
- Starting with the outliers, household median income in East Ferris (\$109,000) is about 20.0% higher than the province and over twice the household income in Mattawa (\$53,200).
- Chisholm and Bonfield also have relatively high household incomes in the upper \$70k range (about \$5,000 above the district median).
- Household median income across Papineau Cameron, Calvin, North Bay, and Nipissing North is relatively steady and within +/- \$1k of the district median.
- Income then starts to drop off in the mid-upper \$60k range in West Nipissing, Nipissing First Nation, and Temagami, and, apart from Mattawa, is lowest in South Algonquin (\$61,200).

### 3.4 Household Median Income Across Ontario's 49 Census Divisions

The figure below shows the distribution of total household income across Ontario's 49 census divisions / service manager areas. The data is shown in descending order, starting with the area that has the highest median income:



- Household median income ranges between the outliers of Halton Region on the high end (\$121,000) and Manitoulin District on the low end (\$63,600).
- Other regional municipalities including York, Durham, and Peel, along with Dufferin County and Ottawa, are also high outliers with household incomes above \$100,000.
- The areas on the chart between Wellington (\$97,000) and Bruce (\$87,000) complete the upper quartile of the income distribution (13 census divisions).
- The next 20 census divisions on the chart are in the inter-quartile range of the distribution with a narrower income range that is within \$7,000. These household incomes range from \$86,000 in Hamilton and Haldiman-Norfolk to \$79,000 in Niagara Region.
- Starting with Peterborough, the remaining (16) areas on the chart have household incomes below \$79,000 and fall in the lowest quartile of Ontario's household income distribution. Most of the districts in Northern Ontario are in this group, including Nipissing and Parry Sound that have the fifth lowest household income in the province.

## 4.0 Individual Income 2020

In addition to household income (above), it is useful to look at *individual* income to provide further analysis on the income status of the population. Specifically, including individual income in the study facilitates analysis of the various income sources that make up an individual's total income, and by extension, family household income. This offers additional insight in to income composition and inequality, and the importance of, and reliance on, various income sources. (Note: the household income described in the previous section is the combined income of all individuals/household members, from all income sources).

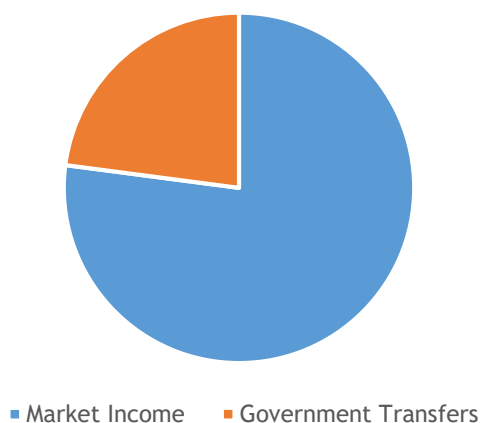
### 4.1 Census 2020 Income Sources

The following sections examine the composition of the 2020 census income based on the various income sources listed in Appendix 1. The data pertains to individuals aged 15 years and over who had income in 2020 from these various sources. Following Statistics Canada's 'components of income' framework the income is grouped as *market income* or *government transfers* and then broken down by detail income sources for further analysis.

#### 4.1.1 Market Income and Government Transfers, Nipissing District

As shown in the figure below, market income accounts for the majority (77.0%) of income in Nipissing District and this includes income from employment, investment, private retirement, and other money market sources. The remaining (23.0%) income comes from *government transfers*, which are cash benefits received from federal, provincial, territorial or municipal governments:

Figure 3 Main Income Sources: Nipissing District



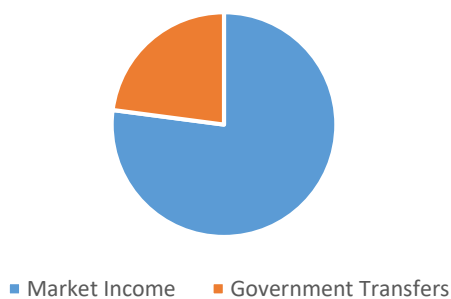
- Although not shown in the chart, the median total income in Nipissing District for individuals 15 years of age and over is \$38,800, which approximates to the median total household income (\$37,250) described earlier.
- The median market income in Nipissing District is \$33,200 while the median government transfer is \$11,800 (see also, Table 3 below).
- In terms of variation, individual income in the district ranges from under \$10,000 in total income to over \$150,000 as measured by the census income scale.

#### 4.1.2 Market Income and Government Transfers, Nipissing District and Ontario

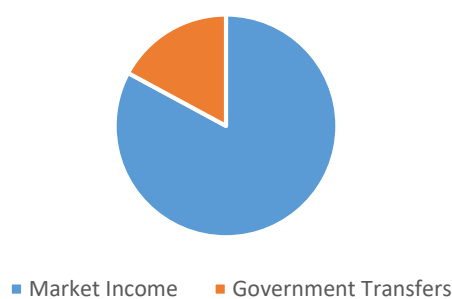
The figures below show the comparison in market and government income sources for Nipissing District and Ontario:

Figure 4

Main Income Sources:  
Nipissing District



Main Income Sources:  
Ontario



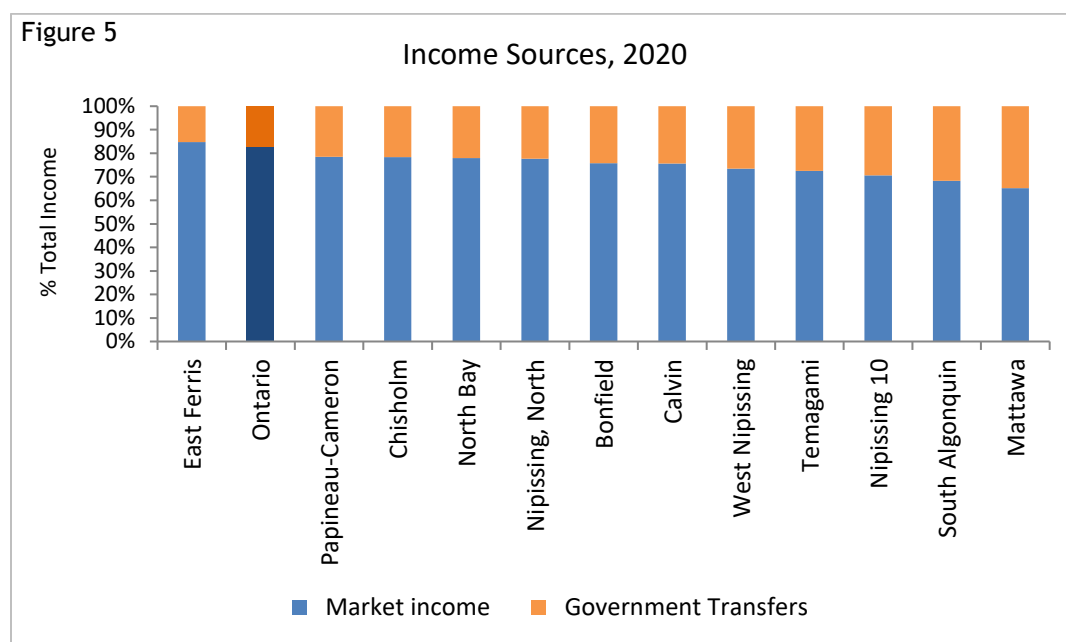
- As noted from the charts, a smaller share of income in Nipissing District derives from market sources and a larger share is from government transfers. This helps to explain the lower incomes in Nipissing District described earlier.

- Whereas a little over three-quarters (77.0%) of Nipissing's total income is market income, the provincial share of market income is 6.0% higher at 83.0%.
- Conversely, income from government transfers is 6.0% higher in Nipissing District, accounting for 23.0% of total income (versus 17.0% for the province).

#### 4.1.3 Market Income and Government Transfers, Nipissing Municipalities and Areas

The figure below shows the distribution of market and government transfer income across the municipalities and areas in Nipissing District. The data is shown in descending order, starting with the area that has the highest percentage of market income (and subsequently lowest percentage of government transfers).

- It can be noted that the order of the municipalities and areas in the chart closely follows that of household income (Figure 1), with higher income associated with market income sources and lower income, with government transfers.



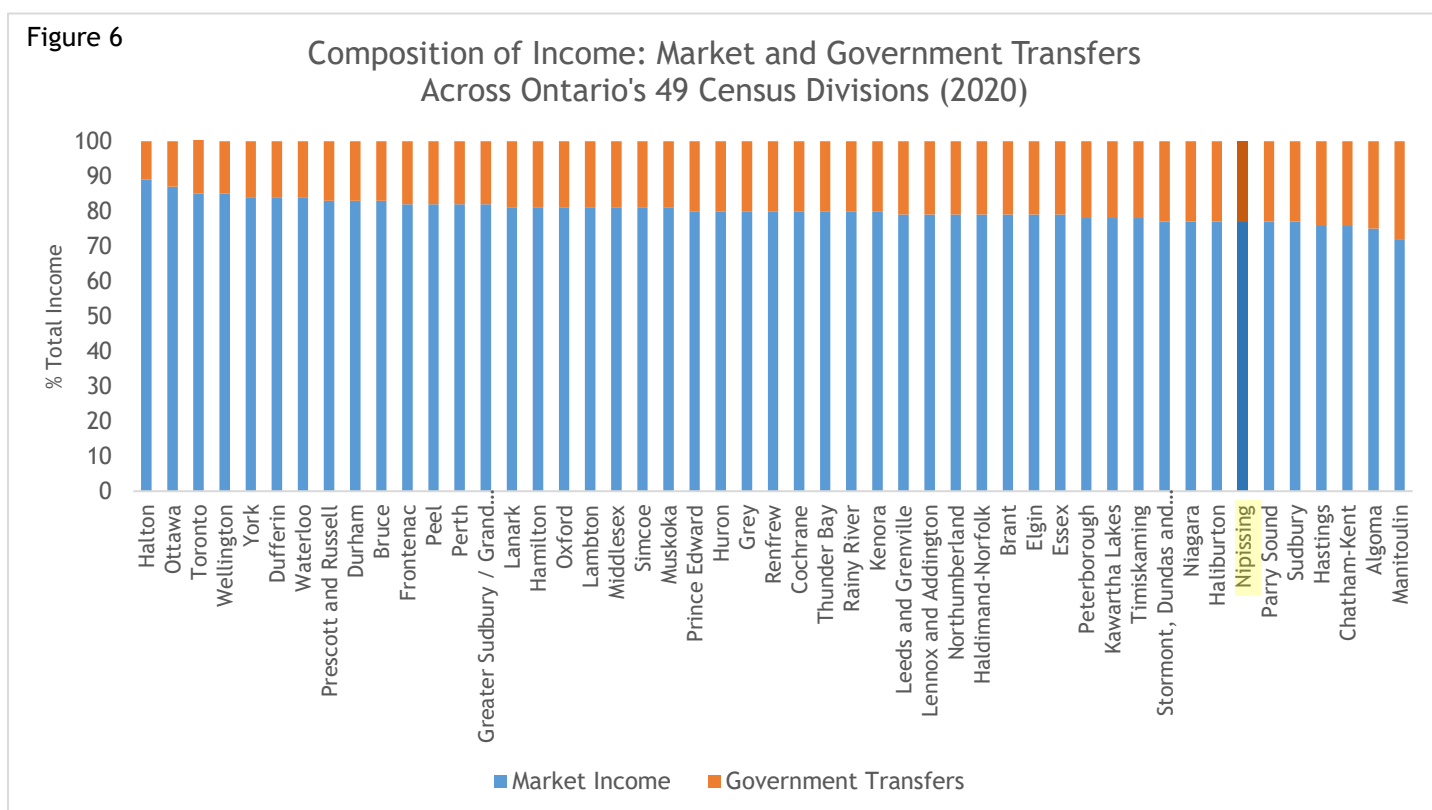
- East Ferris and Mattawa remain on the high and low-end of the distribution. Whereas market income accounts for the majority (84.6%) of total income in East Ferris, it represents just two-thirds of income in Mattawa. The other one-third of income in Mattawa comes from government transfers (vs. 15.3% in East Ferris).
- With East Ferris and Mattawa removed from the analysis, the share of market and government income ranges across the district from 78.4% and 21.4% respectively, in Papineau-Cameron to 68.4% and 31.8% in South Algonquin.
- The income composition in Papineau-Cameron, Chisholm, North Bay, Nipissing North, Bonfield and Calvin is within +/- 1.5% of the district average (77.0% market and 23% government transfer).

- The share of market income then starts to drop off below 74.0% in West Nipissing, Temagami, Nipissing First Nation, and South Algonquin while the share of government transfers in these areas increases to 26.5% or more.

#### 4.1.4 Market Income and Government Transfers Across Ontario's 49 Census Divisions

Figure 6 below shows the distribution of market and government transfer income across Ontario's 49 census divisions / service manager areas. The data is shown in descending order, starting with the area that has the highest percentage of market income (and subsequently lowest percentage of government transfers).

- Statistical analysis shows a strong, positive correlation between market income and total income, with total income generally becoming larger as the share of market income becomes larger (or conversely, a negative correlation with government transfers: total income generally becomes smaller as the share of government transfers becomes larger).



- The composition of market income and government transfers ranges across the province from 89% and 11% respectively in Halton Region to 72% and 28% in Manitoulin District. Thus, as the two polar opposites and based on the share of total income, the reliance on government transfers in Manitoulin is two and a half times greater than in Halton.
- Nipissing District's composition of market income (77%) and government transfers (23%) places it towards the low end of the market income distribution. Along with five other areas

that have the same income composition, the district has one of the lowest shares of market income and highest shares of government transfers in the province.

#### 4.2.1 Detail Income Sources, Nipissing District

The table below shows the market income and government transfer income sources in more detail for the population aged 15 years and over in Nipissing District. The median amount of income and share of total income is shown for the respective income sources, along with the percentage of the population that has received income from those sources. The data is grouped by the two high-level income categories and presented in descending order, starting with the income source that has the largest share of total income:

Table 3. Individual Income Sources, Nipissing District 2020	Median amount of income, \$	Share of Total Income, %	Population with an amount, %
<b>Market Income</b>	<b>33,200</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>82.4</b>
Employment income	34,000	59.7	64.5
Private retirement income	21,000	11.7	20.4
Investment income	608	3.4	23.6
Market income not included elsewhere	2,200	2.3	15.6
<b>Government Transfers</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>89.0</b>
CPP/ QPP	8,300	5.7	33.0
OAS & GIS	7,650	4.7	24.9
Child benefits	5,720	1.9	12.1
El benefits	6,000	1.6	10.5
Other government transfers:	1,800	9.1	83.6
Social assistance	11,400	1.8	7.9
Workers' compensation	8,000	0.8	2.8
Canada Workers Benefit (CWB)	640	0.1	3.4
GST & HST Tax credit	700	0.7	44.0
*Transfers not included elsewhere	1,090	5.8	81.4

\*This includes the COVID-19 benefits administered in 2020.<sup>9</sup>

##### Market Income

Overall, market income is the main source of individual income in Nipissing District, providing a median income of \$33,200 and accounting for over three-quarters of total income.

Approximately four out of every five people in the district (aged 15 years and over) receive some amount of market income from the various sources below:

- *Employment income* is the main source of income in Nipissing District, providing a median income of \$33,200 and accounting for about 60.0% of total income. Close to two-thirds of the population (aged 15 years and over) has some amount of employment income. Most (57.2%) of the employment income is from wages, salaries, and commissions, with the remainder (2.5%) coming from net self-employment.

<sup>9</sup> The COVID-19 emergency and recovery benefits include CERB (Canada Emergency Response Benefit); CRB (Canada Recovery Benefit); CRCB (Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit); CRSB (Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit); CESB (Canada Emergency Student Benefit); enhancements to existing federal programs for persons with disabilities; and other various provincial and territorial benefits.



- *Private retirement income* also contributes significantly to total individual income in the district, providing a median income of \$21,000 and accounting for 11.7% of total income. About one out of every five people in the district have private retirement income, which generally aligns with the district's share of senior citizens (23.0%).
- *Investment income* provides a relatively small amount (\$608) for at least half of those with this source of income, and just 3.4% of an individual's total income. However, nearly one-quarter of the population aged 15 years and over has some amount of investment income.
- Rounding off market income are *other market sources* that provide regular cash income and are not included in the above.<sup>10</sup> These sources provide a median income of \$2,200 but account for a small share (2.3%) of total income. A little under 16.0% of the Nipissing population aged 15 years and over, receive income from these other sources.

### *Government Transfers*

Overall, government transfers are the other main source of individual income, providing a median income of \$11,800 and accounting for the remaining 23.0% of total income. The majority (89.0%) of Nipissing's population aged 15 years and over received some amount of government income in 2020, which is a steep increase from 73.6% in the 2016 census. This increase is largely attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency and recovery benefits (see 'Transfers not included elsewhere' below). The income from the various government sources is summarized below:

- The *Canada and Quebec Pension Plans* (which include retirement pensions, survivors' benefits, and disability benefits) provide a median income of \$8,300 and although they are the largest individual government transfer, account for just 5.7% of total income. With one-third of the Nipissing population receiving CPP/QPP income however, this is an important income source.
- Following closely behind the above are the Old Age Security (OAS) pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), which are income-tested benefits for seniors with low incomes. Combined, the OAS & GIS provide a medium income of \$7,650 and account for 4.7% of total individual income in the district. This is also an important income source for seniors, with about one-quarter of the local population receiving this income.
- *Child benefits* include payments received by parents or guardians with dependent children, from various federal, provincial and territorial child benefit programs. In Nipissing District, these benefits provide a median income of \$5,720 and account for less than 2.0% of total income. The benefits are received by about 12.0% of the population (aged 15 years and over).

<sup>10</sup> These other sources include severance pay and retirement allowances; alimony or child support; periodic support from others not in the household; income from abroad that is not investment income; scholarships, bursaries, fellowships and study grants; and artists' project grants.

- The *Employment Insurance* (EI) transfers include ‘regular’ and ‘other’ EI benefits.<sup>11</sup> The EI benefits provide a median income of \$6,000 and although they account for less than 2.0% of total income, a little over 10.0% of the Nipissing population relies on these income benefits.
- Other government sources account for the remaining 9.0% of government income transfers. Although these provide a median income of just \$1,800 and account for less than 10.0% of total income, the majority (83.6%) of the population receives some amount of income from these government sources which are briefly summarized below:
  - As mentioned previously, Ontario’s social assistance system is comprised of two programs which are Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program. Whereas many of the other government transfers are received in various combinations (e.g. OAS & GIS), social assistance income is the primary source of income for those on social assistance. The median social assistance income of \$11,400 is less than one-third the median income for single households (Table 2) in the district and is received by 8.0% of the population. The income represents a small percentage (1.8%) of total individual income.
  - *Workers’ compensation* provides a median income of \$8,000 for work-related injuries or disabilities. As a relatively small percentage (2.8%) of the population receives workers’ compensation, it accounts for less than 1.0% of total income.
  - The *Canada Workers’ Benefit* (CWB) and *GST/HST Tax Credit* transfers are tax-related benefits that provide income to individuals and families with low or modest incomes. The CWB provides tax relief to eligible individuals and families in the workforce while the GST/HST credits help to offset all, or part, of the GST or HST that is paid.<sup>12</sup> The median income from these sources is relatively low, providing less than \$1,000 and accounting for under 1.0% of total income. Whereas a large percentage (44.0%) of the population receives the GST/ HST tax credits just 3.4% receive the CWB.
  - *Transfers not included elsewhere* include all other government income sources not mentioned above.<sup>13</sup> Of particular note for the 2021 census and as noted under the above table and in footnote 9, these transfers include the COVID-19 emergency relief and recovery benefits in 2020, which has resulted in a large increase in this income

<sup>11</sup> Regular EI benefits are those received under the federal Employment Insurance Program (and include enhancements in 2020 in response to COVID-19). Other EI benefits include those for sickness, maternity, paternity, adoption, compassionate care, work sharing, retraining and benefits to self-employed fishers received under the federal Employment Insurance Program or the Québec Parental Insurance Plan.

<sup>12</sup> This includes the one-time GST enhancement payment issued in 2020 to provide income support due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under this GST COVID-19 enhancement payment, the maximum annual amount of GST credits was doubled for the 2019/2020 benefit year.

<sup>13</sup> As defined by Statistics Canada, these other sources primarily consist of refundable provincial tax credits, provincial income supplements for seniors, other provincial credits, benefits and rebates, government emergency response funds, veterans’ pensions, war veterans’ allowance, pensions to widow(er)s and dependants of veterans.

component and the share of government transfers since the previous 2016 census. These transfers provided a median income of \$1,090 (up fourfold from \$287 in 2016) and account for 5.8% of total income. A little over four-fifths of the Nipissing population aged 15 years and over received some amount from these government transfers, which is a little over twice the population receiving them in 2016 (37.0%). The large increase in this group of government transfers has also been observed at the national and provincial level and according to a Statistics Canada report, is largely attributed to the COVID-19 emergency and recovery benefits (Statistics Canada, Income in Canada, 2020).

#### 4.2.2 Detail Income Sources, Nipissing District and Ontario

The table below shows the previous Table 3 that has been expanded to include Ontario for comparison purposes. While some of the income sources between the two areas are similar or have small differences across the measures, others have larger differences that are significant - these are summarized with key points following the table:

Table 4. Individual Income Sources, Nipissing District and Ontario 2020	Median income, \$		Share of Total Income, %		Population with an amount, %	
	NIP	ON	NIP	ON	NIP	ON
<b>Market Income</b>	<b>33,200</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>82.8</b>	<b>82.4</b>	<b>85.0</b>
Employment income	34,000	38,000	59.7	67.4	64.5	69.2
Private retirement income	21,000	19,400	11.7	7.5	20.4	15.4
Investment income	608	860	3.4	5.5	23.6	29.3
Market income not included elsewhere	2,200	1,920	2.3	2.5	15.6	17.8
<b>Government Transfers</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>8,900</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>86.9</b>
CPP/ QPP	8,300	8,500	5.7	3.6	33.0	23.4
OAS & GIS	7,650	7,650	4.7	3.1	24.9	18.9
Child benefits	5,720	5,320	1.9	1.6	12.1	12.4
EI benefits	6,000	5,600	1.6	1.1	10.5	8.9
Other government transfers:	1,800	1,680	9.1	7.8	83.6	82.6
Social assistance	11,400	10,800	1.8	0.9	7.9	4.4
Workers' compensation	8,000	5,480	0.8	0.3	2.8	1.5
Canada Workers Benefit (CWB)	640	620	0.1	0.1	3.4	3.4
GST & HST Tax credit	700	670	0.7	0.5	44.0	40.8
*Transfers not included elsewhere	1,090	1,060	5.8	6.0	81.4	80.8

- As mentioned earlier, the main difference in comparing Nipissing District's income sources with the province is the smaller share of income in the district that comes from market sources and the larger share from government transfers. This is reflected in Nipissing's lower median market income (\$33,200 vs. \$36,000) and higher median government transfer (\$11,800 vs. \$8,900). Additionally, while fewer people in Nipissing have market income relative to the province, more people have government income.
- Within individual market income sources, the largest component - *employment income* - provides the greatest divide between the district and province in terms of the amount and

share of income. Nipissing district has 4.7% fewer people (aged 15 years and under) with employment income than the province, and a median employment income that is \$4,000 lower. Additionally, while employment income accounts for about 60.0% of total income in Nipissing District, it accounts for over two-thirds of provincial total income. The smaller employment income also correlates with the district's larger EI income under government transfers.

- It is also interesting to note the difference in private retirement and investment income between the district and province. Nipissing District has 5.0% more people with private retirement income, which accounts for a larger share of total income (11.7% vs. 7.5%) and provides a median income that is \$1,600 higher than the province. On the other hand, Nipissing District has 2.0% fewer people with investment income than the province, which accounts for a smaller share of total income (3.4% vs. 5.5%) and a smaller median investment income (by -\$252), although this income is relatively small for both areas.
- Turning to government transfers, Nipissing District has a greater reliance on CPP/ QPP than the province with one-third of the population aged 15 years and older having income from this source (vs. 23.4% for Ontario). The CPP/ QPP also provides a greater share of total income in Nipissing (5.7% vs. 3.6%) although the median income is similar in both areas.
- Nipissing also has a greater reliance on OAS & GIS with close to one-quarter of the population having income from this source (vs. 18.9% for Ontario). This income source also accounts for a larger share of total income in the district (4.7% vs. 3.1%) although the median OAS & GIS income is the same in both areas.
- Other government transfer areas where Nipissing District receives relatively more income than the province are EI benefits, social assistance, and workers' compensation. Of direct interest and relevance to the Board, the percentage of people on social assistance in Nipissing District is approaching twice that of the province.
- The district has relatively more people with income from these respective sources above, and higher median amounts than the province, and these income sources account for a larger share of total income in the district.

## 5.0 Low Income in Nipissing District

The following sections look at the low income of individuals and family households living in Nipissing District. As mentioned earlier, the Market Basket Measure (MBM) is Canada's official poverty line and the preferred measure for this study. However, at the time of the analysis and writing the report, Statistics Canada has not published the 2021 census MBM data and these datasets are currently unavailable. Subsequent reports will analyze the MBM data when it becomes available to establish the current poverty rate in Nipissing District. In the meantime, and in absence of the MBM, the Low Income Measure-After Tax (LIM-AT) is used to

gauge the extent of relative low income of the population living in private households in Nipissing District (see section 2.2.2 for LIM-AT definition).<sup>14</sup>

The following table shows the number of persons by broad age group in the district, whose income falls below the low-income line after income tax is taken into account:

Table 5. Low Income Nipissing District, 2020	Low Income Measure, After Tax (LIM-AT)		
Age Group	persons in age group, #	persons in low- income (age group), #	persons in low- income (age group), %
<b>Low Income</b>	<b>*82,865</b>	<b>10,780</b>	<b>13.0</b>
0-17 years	14,700	1,990	13.5
0-5 years	4,415	710	16.1
18-64 years	49,700	5,925	11.9
65 + years	18,465	2,865	15.5

\*Number of persons living in private households in Nipissing District.

- Based on the LIM-AT, 13.0% of persons in private households in Nipissing District are living in low income. In absolute terms, this amounts to close to 11,000 people.
- The prevalence of low income varies by broad age group: For those aged 17 years and under the percentage (13.5%) of low income is similar to the overall population. However, as a subset of this group, a higher (16.0%) percentage of children aged 5 years and under are living in low-income households.
- Senior citizens aged 65 years and over also experience a higher (15.5%) prevalence of low income than the general district population, while the broad age group of 18-64 years is lower (12.0%).

## 5.1 Low Income: Nipissing District and Ontario

The table below shows the prevalence of low income for Nipissing District along with Ontario for comparison purposes:

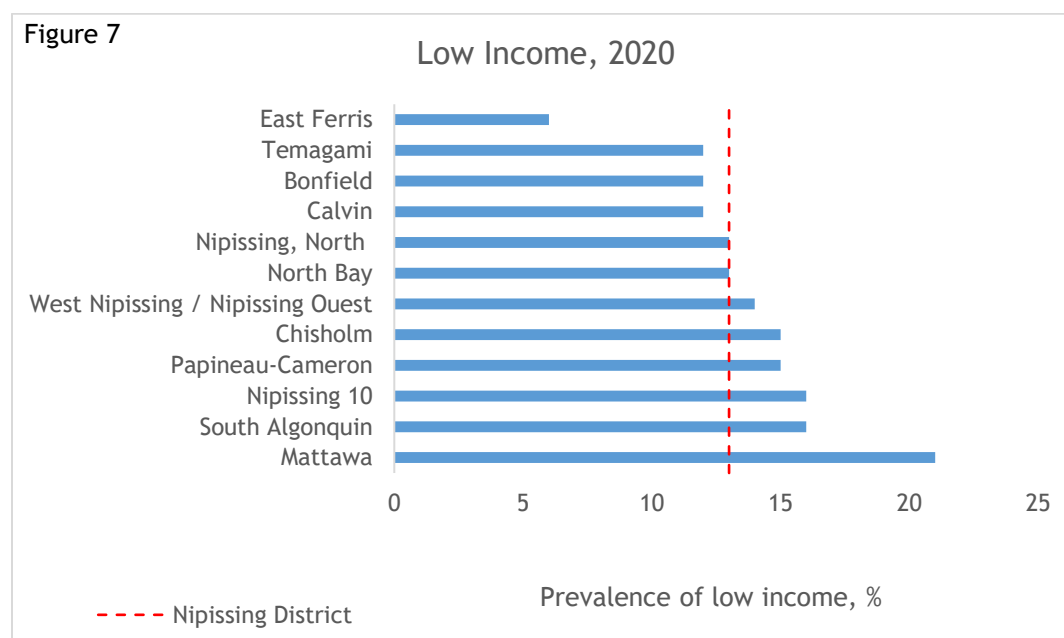
Table 6. Low Income Nipissing District and Ontario, 2020	Low Income Measure, After Tax (LIM-AT)	
Age Group	Nipissing: persons in low- income (age group), %	Ontario: persons in low- income (age group), %
<b>Low Income</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>10.1</b>
0-17 years	13.5	11.5
0-5 years	16.1	12.4
18-64 years	11.9	9.1
65 + years	15.5	12.1

<sup>14</sup> As stated by Statistics Canada, persons living in collective households that are commercial, institutional, or communal in nature, are not included in the low-income measures because their living arrangements and expenditures can be quite different from those living in private households.

- For the overall population living in private households, the prevalence of low income in Nipissing District is 3.0% higher than in the province. This is in keeping with the earlier findings of Nipissing's relatively higher share of government transfers and lower income, in general.
- The prevalence of low income in the district is also higher than the province across the broad age groups, ranging from 2.0% higher for children and youth aged 17 years and under to 3.7% higher for children aged 5 years and under.

## 5.2 Low Income: Nipissing District Municipalities

Figure 7 below shows the prevalence of low income for Nipissing's municipalities and areas that have census income reported (as with the previous income chart, the data for Bear Island, Nipissing South, and Mattawan has been suppressed for confidentiality purposes). The data is shown in ascending order, starting with the area that has the lowest prevalence of low income:



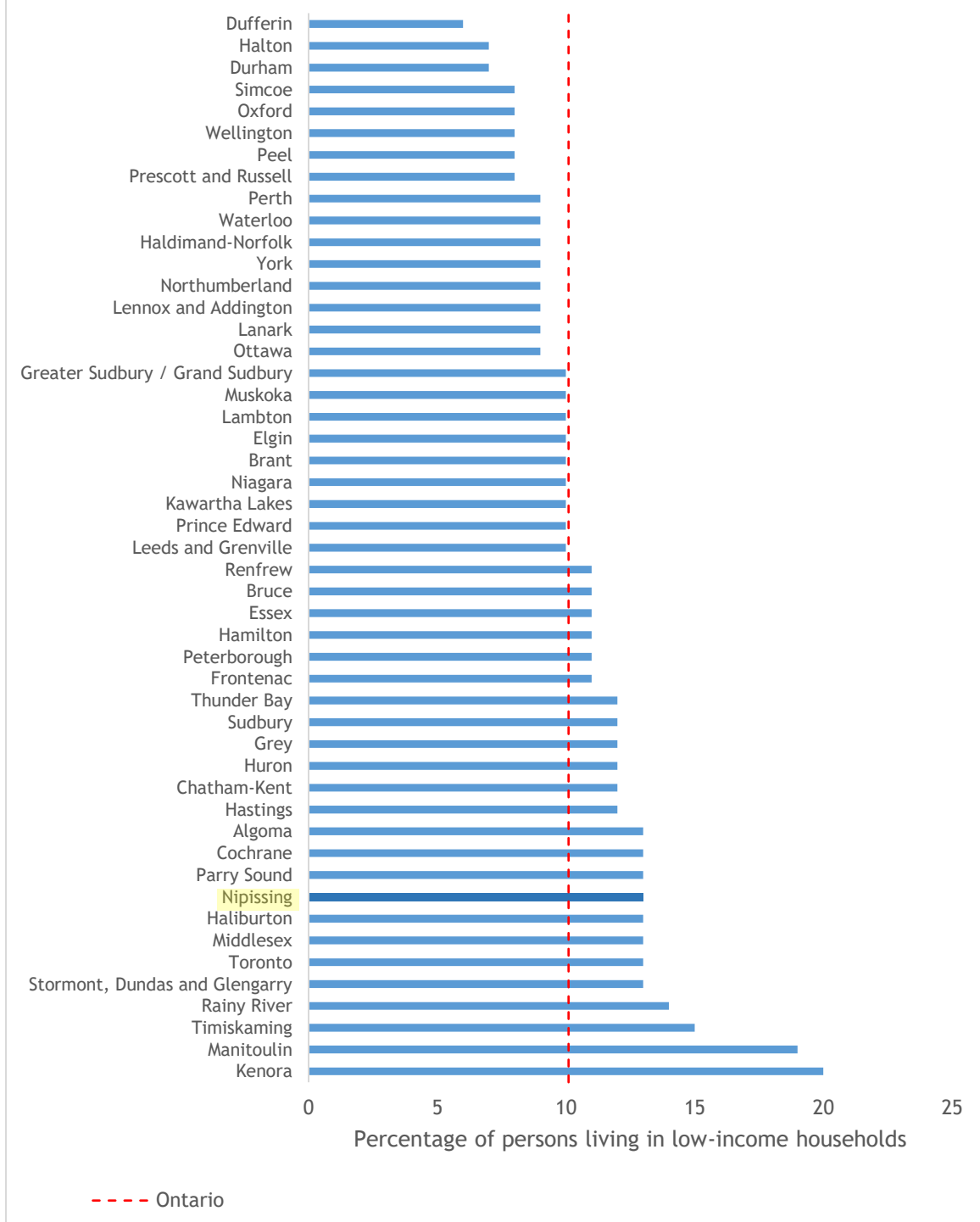
- The order of the municipalities and areas in the chart above is similar to that in Figure 1 with household income, as there is a moderate relationship between household income as a predictor of low income status (i.e., the higher the income, the lower the prevalence of low income, and vice-versa). However, other predictors also come in to play and this relationship does not always hold. For example, Temagami has relatively low household income (Figure 1) and the prevalence of low income is also low. On the other hand, Chisholm has relatively high income and also a higher prevalence of low income than would be expected.
- Similar to household income distribution (see Figure 1), East Ferris and Mattawa are outliers that are located quite a distance on the LIM measure from the other municipalities and areas.

- The prevalence of low income in East Ferris (6.0%) is three and a half times less than in Mattawa (21.0%).
- Temagami, Bonfield and Calvin have the next lowest prevalence of low income (12.0%) followed by Nipissing North and North Bay which sit at the district level (13.0%).
- Moving towards higher rates of low income, 14% of those living in private households in West Nipissing have low income, followed by Chisholm and Papineau-Cameron at 15.0%.
- Nipissing First Nation and South Algonquin have the highest prevalence of low income in Nipissing District (16.0%) apart from outlying Mattawa.

### 5.3 Low Income Across Ontario's 49 Census Divisions

- Figure 8 on the following page shows the prevalence of low income across Ontario's 49 census divisions / service manager areas. The data is shown in ascending order, starting with the area that has the lowest prevalence of low income based on the LIM-AT measure.
- The prevalence of low income ranges from 6.0% of persons living in private households in Dufferin County to over three times this rate in Manitoulin and Kenora Districts (statistical outliers at 19.0% and 20.0% respectively).
- Following Dufferin and in the first quartile of the distribution, the percentage of low-income persons in households ranges between 7.0% in Halton and Durham Regions to 9.0% in Ottawa.
- The areas on the chart between Greater Sudbury and Leeds and Grenville, occupy the next quartile with a prevalence of low income of 10.0% (also the provincial rate and median).
- Moving into the third quartile of the distribution, the areas between Renfrew and Hastings counties have a higher prevalence of low income of 11.0% - 12.0%.
- The upper quartile of the distribution starts at Algoma on the chart and has the areas with the highest prevalence of low income in the province. This group includes Nipissing and seven other districts in Northern Ontario, with the prevalence of low-income ranging between 13.0% - 20.0%.

**Figure 8** Prevalence of Low-Income Across Ontario's 49 Census Divisions, 2020





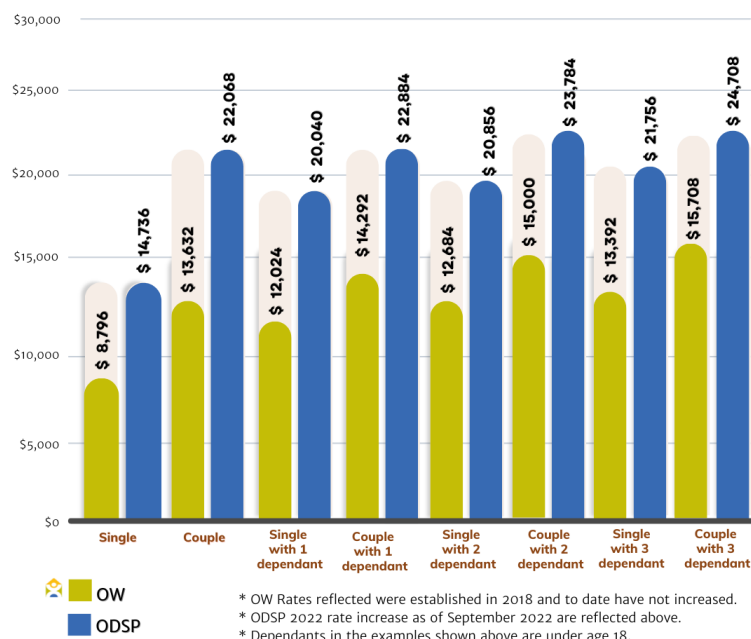
## 6.0 Ontario Works Income Comparisons

### 6.1 Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) Income

Even within Ontario's response to poverty through social assistance programs it is important to note that there are significant legislative differences between OW and ODSP. One of these differences relates to the base rate for basic needs and shelter. Figure 9 below illustrates the maximum entitlement for basic needs and shelter for OW and ODSP for the family types listed with an accommodation type of renter. Due to the number of possible combinations with respect to family composition and accommodation type, all scenarios have not been captured in the bar graph.

Note: Social assistance recipients who pay less for their housing than the maximum shelter amount only receive the amount they pay. For example, a single recipient in receipt of OW living in a Rent Geared to Income unit pays \$85.00 per month in rent versus the OW maximum shelter allowance of \$390.00. The next report in this series will provide additional analysis on social assistance rates for shelter and the low representation of social assistance recipients in subsidized housing across the province.

Figure 9 OW and ODSP Annual Income



- As shown above in Figure 9, maximum OW rates, depending upon the family type, range from being 40%-46% lower than maximum ODSP rates placing OW recipients in a far more precarious situation to meeting their basic needs. However, with that said and as

you will see later on in this report under Section 6.5 OW/ODSP Income and Low Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT), ODSP rates also fall far below the low-income line.

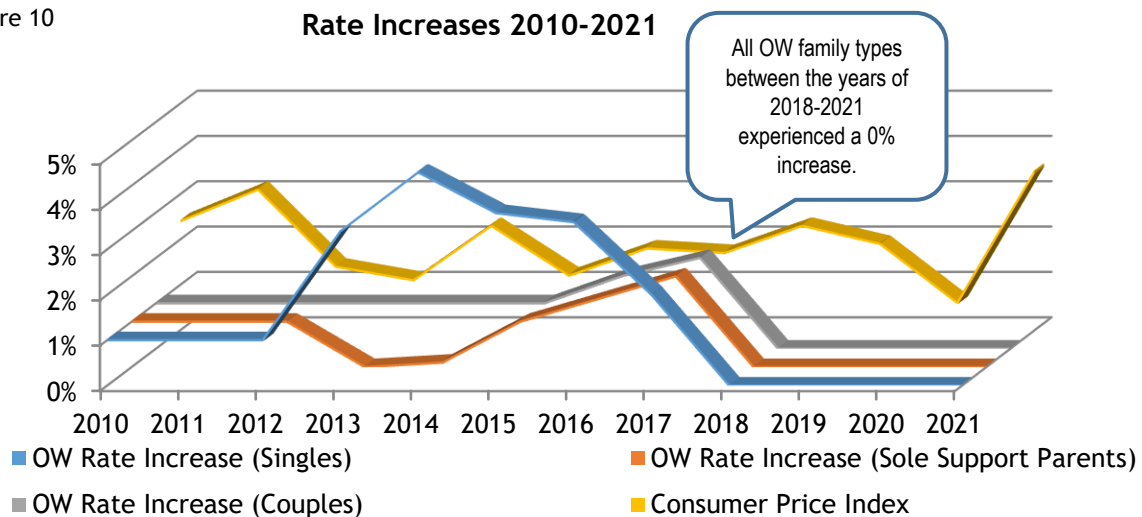
- As reported through the Ontario Newsroom (2022), a 5.0% increase in ODSP rates effective September 2022 was announced which will serve to widen the gap between the income of the OW and ODSP caseloads.

## 6.2 OW Income and Inflation

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) monitors the upward price movement of goods and services in the economy and is one of several indices used to calculate inflation. As a social assistance recipient's ability to participate in the economy by purchasing the goods and services that are essential to their health and wellbeing is intrinsically tied to social assistance rates, a comparison between the fluctuating CPI rate and social assistance rate increases for the period of 2010-2021 has been included in this Report. This comparison can help us to better understand the adequacy or inadequacy of social assistance rates as a response to poverty.

For the purpose of this comparison only OW rates for three family household types (singles, sole support parents, couples) have been included in Figure 10 below. These three household types were selected to illustrate the differences in rate increases between these groups during this period due to changes in provincial legislation.

Figure 10



Generally, over the last 10 years, OW rates have not kept pace with inflation, with the exception of singles who had rate increases above the inflation rate between 2013 and 2017. Since then however, there have been no rate increases for OW, let alone at the inflation rate or higher. Other points of interest are noted below:

- Overall rate increases for sole support parents were lower in comparison to couples and singles. This difference was offset by increases in child related benefits in 2013. Since that time additional legislative changes under the Ontario Works Act exempting all child related benefits, including child support income, also placed families with children in a more favorable financial position overall when looking at total income.

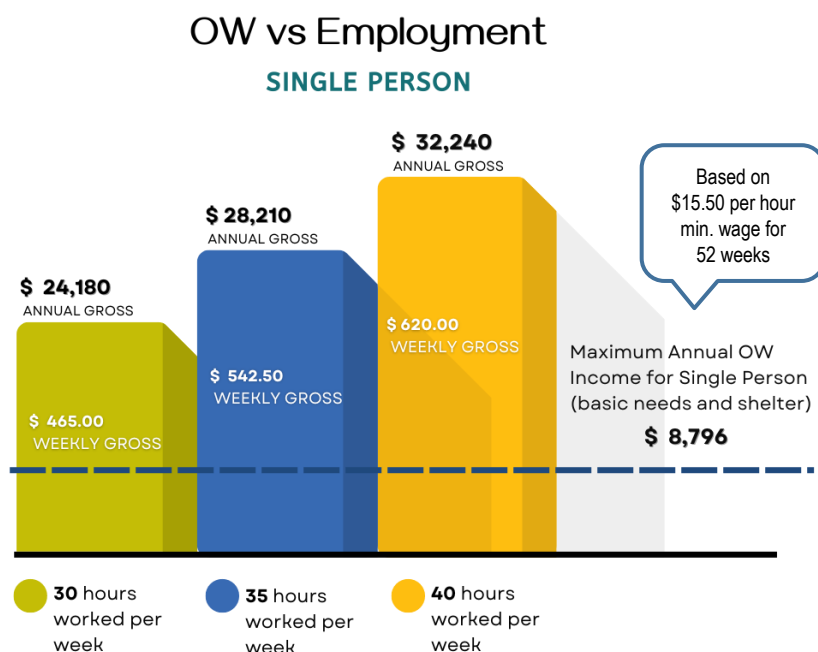
- OW Singles experienced the highest rate increase of 4% in 2014 with increases declining steadily thereafter.
- With the exception of 2017 when the OW increase was marginally above the CPI rate, between the years of 2010-2021, CPI rate increases were higher than the increases received by Sole Support Parents and Couples.
- While the district's general population experienced real household income growth of 10.7% (\$7,000) since the previous 2016 census as noted in Table 1, there has been no household income growth for those relying on Ontario Works.
- Effective August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, through a communication from the Social Assistance Program Policy Branch the provincial government announced their commitment to linking future ODSP rate increases to the rate of inflation. No commitments have been made to increase rates for OW.

### 6.3 OW Income and Minimum Wage

Minimum wage comparisons are often used to benchmark the adequacy or inadequacy of social assistance rates. In fact, it can be argued that the provincial minimum wage is what keeps social assistance rates low as it is believed by some that if social assistance rates are comparable to the minimum wage, there will be no financial incentive to work. The purpose of this Report is not to support or refute this claim.

Figure 11 below illustrates the gross amount that a minimum wage earner working 30-40 hours per week would receive weekly and annually compared to the amount a single person in receipt of OW. Excluded from this analysis is how OW income compares to that of a minimum wage earner when an OW recipient is in receipt of earnings and receiving earnings exemptions.

Figure 11

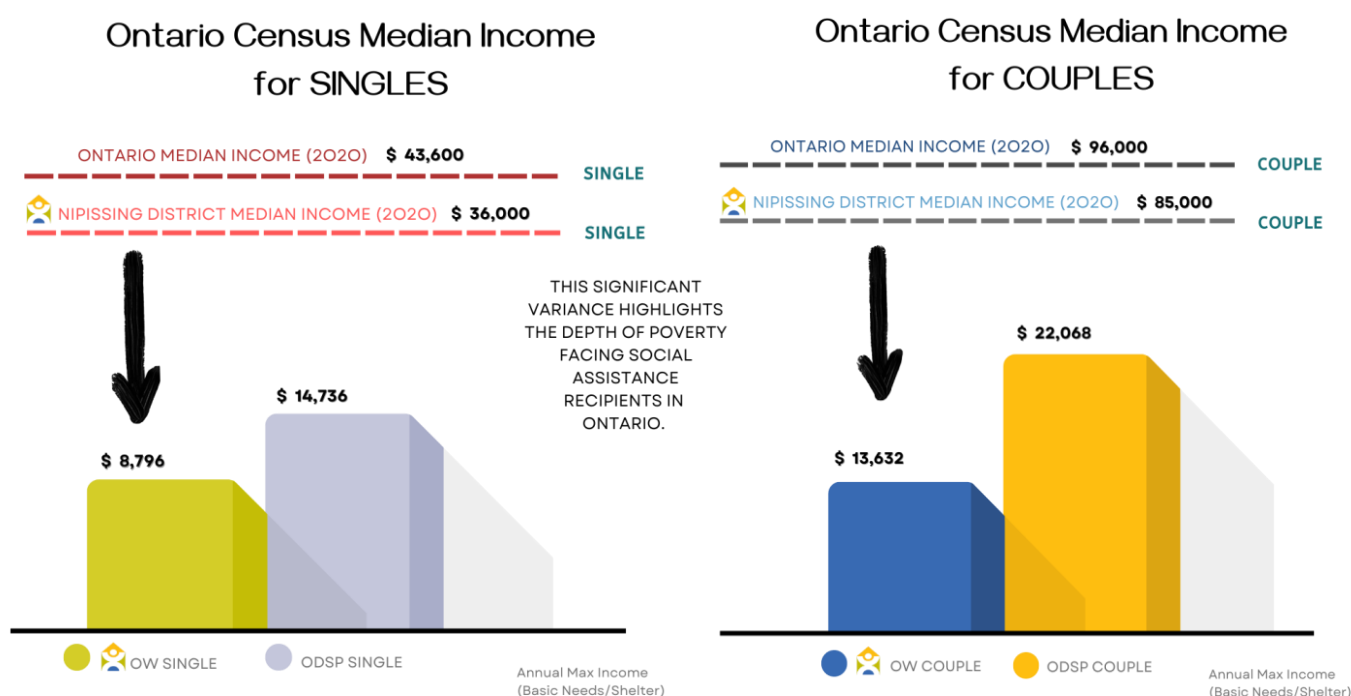


- A person working 40 hours per week would earn a gross income of \$32,240 per year compared to an annual income of \$8,796 for a single person in receipt of OW with no other source of income.
- The provincial minimum wage increased in October 2022 from \$15.00 to \$15.50. This change has widened the gap between the annual income of a social assistance recipient and that of a minimum wage earner.

## 6.4 OW and Median Income

Figure 12 below illustrates Nipissing and Ontario Median Incomes in relation to the OW and ODSP maximum rates for two of the social assistance family types (single households and families without children). As family household types and social assistance rates are not aligned using the methodology used to calculate median incomes, only the median incomes for Single Households and Families without Children can be directly compared.

Figure 12



- The median income for Nipissing District for a Single Household is \$36,000 with the Ontario Median Income being slightly higher at \$43,600. The annual income of a single Ontario Works recipient with no other income is \$8,796 with the ODSP annual income being \$14,736. These significant variances highlight the depth of poverty facing social assistance recipients in Ontario.

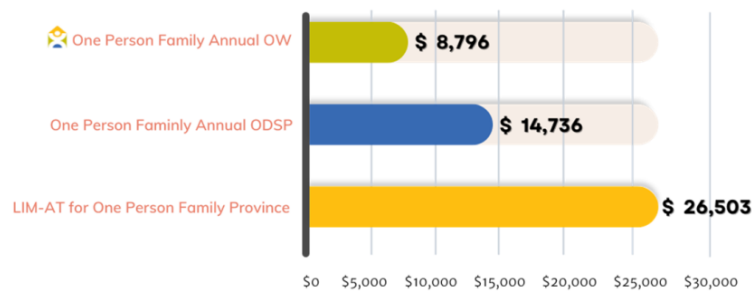
## 6.5 OW/ODSP and Low Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT)

As described in Section 2.2.2, the Low Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT) is a relative measure, whereby a household is considered to be living in low income or poverty if its income is significantly lower than other households. Figure 13 and 14 below compares the LIM-AT for

two social assistance family household types with no other source of income, and the general census population (as noted earlier, it is difficult to compare all the census and social assistance family household types due to the complexities of social assistance income, especially where child- related benefits are concerned). For this reason, only singles (one person) and two person families without children have been included in the comparison.

Figure 13

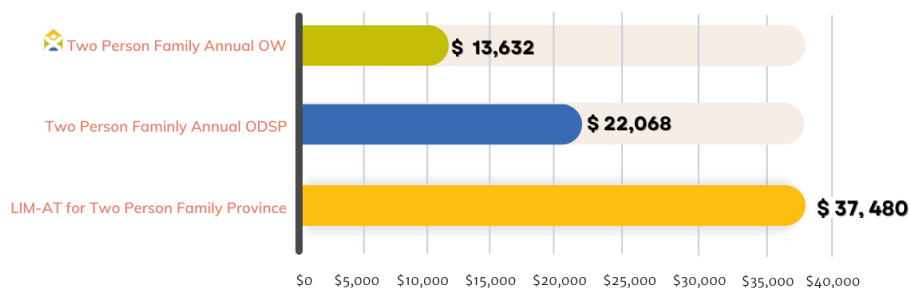
#### LIM-AT One Person Family vs One Person Family OW and ODSP



- The annual income for a single in receipt of OW is \$8,796 compared to the low-income threshold of \$26,503 for the general singles population (see table in Appendix 3). This puts the OW income at about one-third the low-income threshold, or almost -\$18,000 less than the low-income line
- While ODSP income for singles (\$14,736) is about one and a half times higher than OW, it is only half the low-income threshold amount.

Figure 14

#### LIM-AT Two Person Family vs Two Person Family OW and ODSP



- As noted by the chart, the picture does not change much for couples/ two-person families, other than the income amounts being relatively higher. For example, the annual income for couple families in receipt of OW is \$13,632 compared to the low-income threshold of \$37,480 for the general population (see table in Appendix 3). This puts the OW income at a little under one-half the threshold income, or about -\$24,000 less than the low-income line.
- Similar to singles (above), while ODSP income for couple families (\$22,068) is about one and a half times higher than OW, it is only a little more than half the low-income threshold amount.

## References

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Statistics Canada (2022). *Income in Canada, 2020*.  
[Income in Canada, 2020 \(statcan.gc.ca\)](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/26-667-x/2022001/article/00001-eng.htm)

Statistics Canada (2022). *Pandemic benefits cushion losses for low income earners and narrow income inequality - after-tax income grows across Canada except in Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador*.  
[The Daily – Pandemic benefits cushion losses for low income earners and narrow income inequality - after-tax income grows across Canada except in Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador \(statcan.gc.ca\)](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/26-667-x/2022001/article/00001-eng.htm)

## Appendix

## Appendix 1. Components of Income in 2020

Total Income	Market income	Employment income	Wages, salaries and commissions
			Net self-employment income
		Investment income	
		Private retirement income	
		Market income not included elsewhere	
	Government transfers	Old Age Security pension (OAS) and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)	Old Age Security pension (OAS)
			Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) and spousal allowance
		Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Quebec Pension Plan (QPP) benefits	Retirement benefits
			Disability benefits
			Survivor benefits
		Employment Insurance (EI) benefits	Regular benefits
			Other benefits
		Child benefits	Federal child benefits
			Provincial and territorial child benefits
		Other government transfers	Social assistance benefits
			Workers' compensation benefits
			Canada workers benefit (CWB)
			Goods and Services Tax (GST) credit and Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) credit
			Government transfers not included elsewhere

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population 2021; [Dictionary, Census of Population, 2021 - Appendix 2.4 Components of income in 2020 \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)



## Appendix 2. Summary of low-income lines in the 2021 Census of Population Program

Dimensions	Low-income concept		
	Market basket measure (MBM) <sup>1</sup>	Low-income measure (LIM)	Low-income cut-off (LICO)
<b>Geography</b>	53 regions	One level across Canada	Size of area of residence
<b>Unit for income</b>	Economic families and persons not in economic families	Households	Economic families and persons not in economic families
<b>Adjustment factor</b>	Square root of economic family size	Square root of household size	Different lines based on size of economic family up to the 7 or more members category
<b>Income</b>	Disposable income for MBM for economic families and persons not in economic families <sup>2</sup>	After-tax income of households <sup>4</sup>	After-tax income of economic families and persons not in economic families <sup>6</sup>
		Total income of households <sup>5</sup>	Total income of economic families and persons not in economic families <sup>7</sup>
<b>Line</b>	Price of the basket of goods and services for the reference family <sup>3</sup>	Half the median of adjusted income	Income level at which families usually spend 20 percentage points more than the average family on shelter, food and clothing <sup>8</sup>

### Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> The MBM is Canada's Official Poverty Line.
- <sup>2</sup> For Employment and Social Development Canada's Market Basket Measure (MBM).
- <sup>3</sup> The contents of the basket for the 2018-base MBM were defined by Employment and Social Development Canada, and prices were measured by Statistics Canada.
- <sup>4</sup> For the Low-income measure, after tax (LIM-AT).
- <sup>5</sup> For the Low-income measure, before tax (LIM-BT).
- <sup>6</sup> For the Low-income cut-offs, after tax (LICO-AT).
- <sup>7</sup> For the Low-income cut-offs, before tax (LICO-BT).
- <sup>8</sup> Based on estimates from the 1992 Survey of Family Expenditures adjusted to 2020 dollars with the Consumer Price Index.

### Appendix 3. Low Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT) thresholds for persons in private households, 2020

## Low-income measures thresholds (LIM-AT and LIM-BT) for private households of Canada, 2020

Release date: July 13, 2022

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[More information](#)

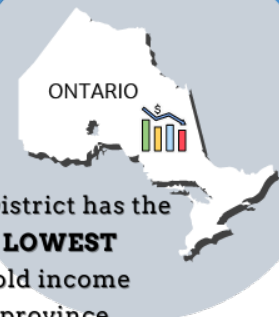
Household size <sup>1</sup>	After-tax income	Before-tax income
1 person	26,503	30,401
2 persons	37,480	42,993
3 persons	45,904	52,655
4 persons	53,005	60,801
5 persons	59,261	67,978
6 persons	64,918	74,466
7 persons	70,119	80,432

<sup>1</sup> To convert to other household sizes, multiply the value in the one-person household by the square root of the desired household size.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population 2021; [Dictionary, Census of Population, 2021 - Low-income measure, after tax \(LIM-AT\) \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)



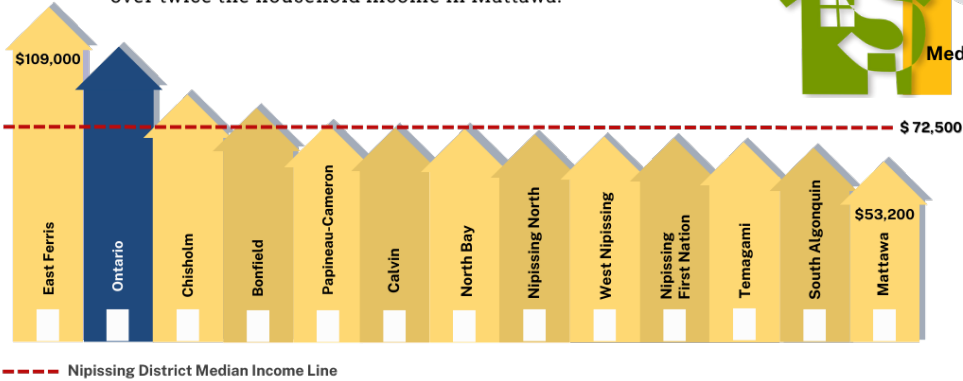
# Nipissing District Poverty Profile



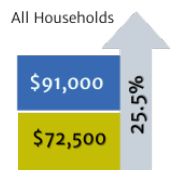
Nipissing District has the **FIFTH LOWEST** household income in the province.



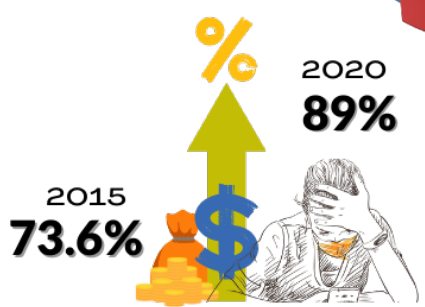
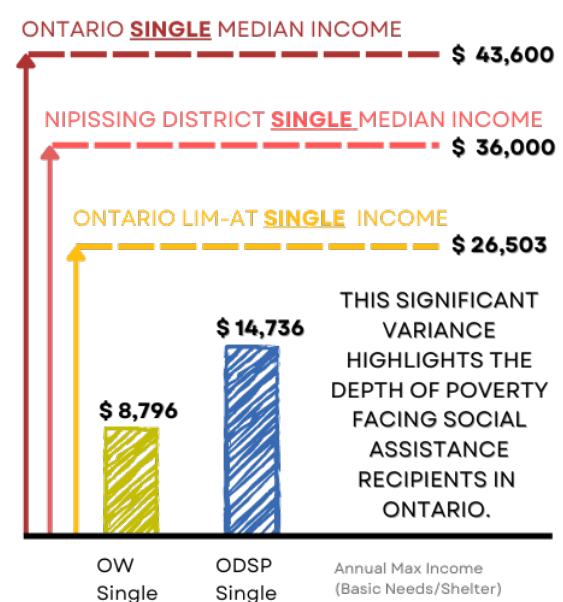
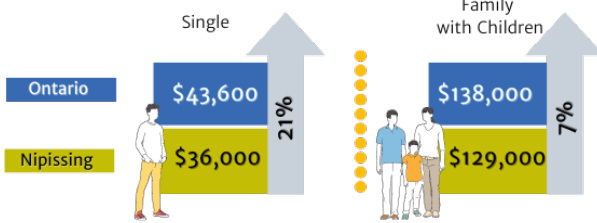
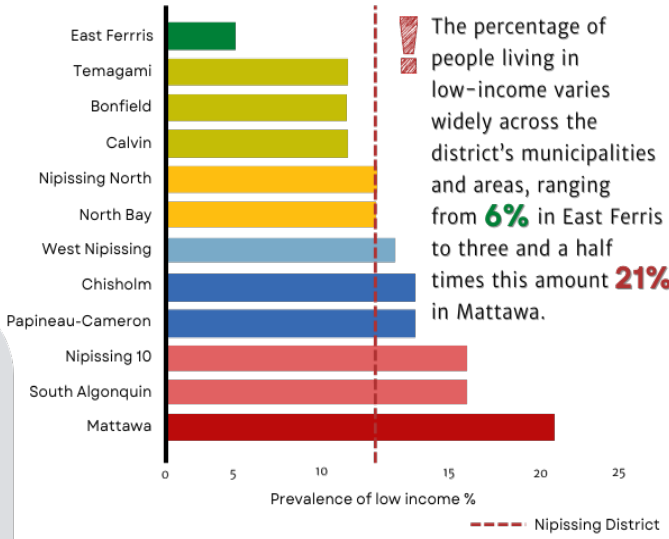
East Ferris is **20%** higher than the province and over twice the household income in Mattawa.



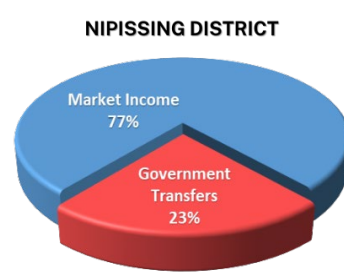
The **total median household income** in Ontario is **25.5%** higher than in Nipissing District



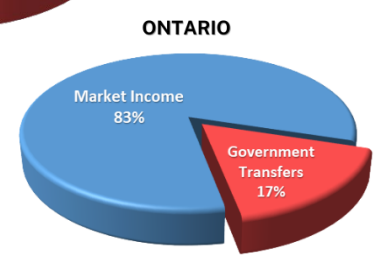
Based on the Low Income Measure-After Tax, **13.0%** of persons in private households in Nipissing District are living in low income. In absolute terms, this amounts to close to **11,000** people.



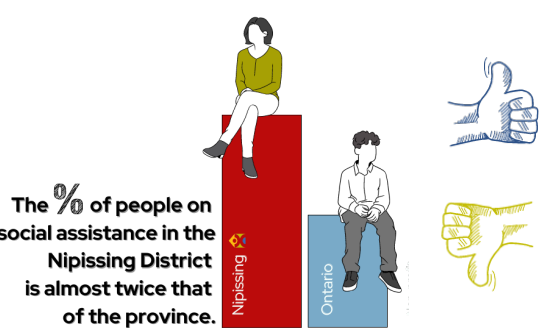
In 2020, 89% of Nipissing's population received some amount of government income, up sharply from 73.6% in 2015. This increase was mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency and recovery benefits.



Government transfers are **6%** higher and Market Income is **6%** lower in the Nipissing District.



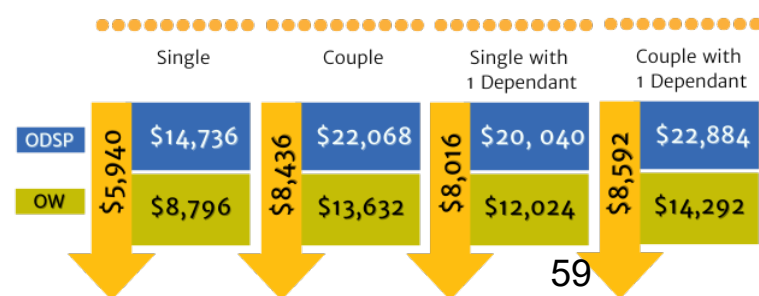
The Nipissing District has one of the lowest shares of market income and highest shares of government transfers in the province.



**5% INCREASE** IN ODSP RATES AS OF SEPT 2022

**NO INCREASE** IN OW RATES SINCE 2018

## OW & ODSP ANNUAL INCOME COMPARISON





April 23, 2022

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Room 281  
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The Honourable Michael Parsa  
Minister of Children, Community and Social Service  
438 University Avenue, 7th Floor  
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Dear Premier Ford, Minister Jones, and Minister Parsa:

**RE: Food Insecurity in Ontario**

The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) is writing to you to echo the concerns raised by the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit about the important public health issue of food insecurity. They shared that recent estimates show that within the District, **one in six households experience food insecurity, and one in five children live in a food insecure household**. The scale of this problem is concerning, and it is not acceptable that so many households do not have enough money for food.

The Health Unit's [2022 Cost of Eating Well report](#) highlights the severe health consequences of food insecurity, and draws attention to the need for adequate incomes to address this issue. Further, it emphasizes the inadequacy of current social assistance rates. It is clear households receiving social assistance do not have enough money for the costs of living, including food. With ongoing record high food inflation rates, the financial situation is increasingly dire for these households.

Municipalities feel the impact of poverty at the local level, struggling to adequately support citizens who are unable to make ends meet. Funding and administering public and social services, including targeted supports for low-income households is challenging at the best of times, but even more-so now in the current state of COVID-19 recovery and inflation rates. Ensuring low-income households have enough money to meet their basic needs is essential for their health.

As a result of the correspondence received from the Health Unit, which provides the local context of food insecurity in the Nipissing community, the DNSSAB, through the attached resolution, is joining the call for policy action to reduce food insecurity in Ontario, and asking the Province to: Legislate targets for the reduction of food insecurity as part of the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy; specifically:

- Increase social assistance rates to reflect the costs of living, and to index Ontario Works rates to inflation going forward.
- Resume investigating the feasibility of creating a guaranteed living wage (basic income) in the Province of Ontario.

The Province of Ontario can reduce food insecurity and poverty, especially among households receiving social assistance. From a municipal perspective, we urge you to take action for the health of our residents and to ease the burden of poverty throughout the District.

Sincerely,

Mark King  
Chair  
District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board

Lana Mitchell  
Chair  
Community Services Committee (DNSSAB)

#### References:

Tarasuk V, Li T, Fafard St-Germain AA. *Household food insecurity in Canada, 2021*. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF). 2022. Retrieved from: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/>

North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit. *2022 Cost of Eating Well: Monitoring food affordability in the North Bay Parry Sound District*. 2023. Retrieved from: [https://www.myhealthunit.ca/en/health-topics/HU\\_FoodInsecurity\\_Report22-\(1\).pdf](https://www.myhealthunit.ca/en/health-topics/HU_FoodInsecurity_Report22-(1).pdf)

Knox B. *The case for basic income and municipalities*. Ontario Basic Income Network. 2022. Retrieved from: [https://www.obin.ca/bi\\_and\\_municipalities](https://www.obin.ca/bi_and_municipalities)

## BRIEFING NOTE CS04-23

☐ For Information or ☒ For Approval

**Date:** April 26, 2023

**Purpose:** Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System Policy

**Prepared by:** Lynn Démoré-Pitre, Director Children's Services

**Reviewed by:** Justin Avery, Manager of Finance

**Approved by:** Catherine Matheson, Chief Administrative Officer

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### ***Alignment with Strategic Plan: Healthy, Sustainable Communities***

☒ Maximize Impact   ☒ Remove Barriers   ☒ Seamless Access   ☐ Learn & Grow

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the District of Nipissing Social Services Administrative Board (DNSSAB) accepts and adopts Policy 5CS-ADM-13 related to the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System, attached as Appendix A and as described in briefing note CS04-23.

### **BACKGROUND**

DNSSAB is the designated child care and early years service system manager responsible for the planning and managing of licenced child care services and EarlyON Child and Family Centres throughout the District of Nipissing.

DNSSAB's policies, practices and guidelines are planned and implemented to reflect legislation, regulations, directives and best practices, which include the *Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Service Management Funding Guideline for Consolidated Municipal Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards*.

On March 28, 2022 the Government of Ontario signed a new Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement with the Government of Canada. The CWELCC System is intended to support quality, accessibility, affordability and inclusivity in licensed child care.

The Ministry of Education encourages service system managers to adopt a standard approach to managing the ongoing implementation of the CWELCC System across the district.

## **CURRENT STATUS/STEPS TAKEN TO DATE**

The Canada-Wide Early Learning Child Care System Policy (attached as Appendix A) has been updated to reflect current guidelines, best practices and local priorities. The overarching policy continues to provide guidance, service standards and accountabilities related to the ongoing implementation of the CWELCC System within the District of Nipissing.

The policy includes topics such as application to system, participation, funding, reporting, reconciliations, audits, appeals and more.

## **RESOURCES REQUIRED, RISKS AND MITIGATION**

Funding provided for the implementation of the CWELCC System continues to be 100% federal funding and does not require any municipal contributions.

This policy is intended to mitigate potential risk by ensuring further alignment with ministry guidelines, best practices and local priorities. Furthermore, it is intended to support a fair, equitable, accountable and transparent decision making process.

## **CONCLUSION**

In order to ensure stability and sustainability of the licensed child care sector, the province is planning a phased approach to the implementation of the CWELCC System. DNSSAB will continue to work closely with the early years and child care service providers to ensure that the sector is well supported as the CWELCC System is implemented across the province.

The Board will continue to receive updates as additional information becomes available.

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-13
Policy	Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System		
Effective Date	April 2022	Annual Review	April 2023
Revision Date	September 2022	Board Approval	

### 1. **Policy Statement**

The Government of Canada has identified child care as a national priority to enhance early learning and childhood development, support workforce participation and contribute to the economic recovery.

In 2022, the Governments of Ontario and Canada signed the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement. Funding under the CWELCC will be used to build and leverage the success of Ontario's existing early learning and child care system by increasing quality, access, affordability, flexibility and inclusivity in early learning and child care.

The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) is committed to ensuring that the CWELCC System is planned and implemented in accordance with the Agreement, Policies and Guidelines through a process that is fair, accountable and transparent.

### 2. **Goals, Objectives and Purpose**

- Offer financial relief through lower licensed child care fees to families with children under six years old.
- Strengthen and stabilize the early learning and child care workforce.
- Create additional high quality, accessible and affordable licensed child care spaces.
- Address barriers to providing inclusive early learning and child care services.
- To ensure a fair, equitable, transparent and consistent approach to the implementation of the CWELCC System.

### 3. **Persons or Groups Affected**

- All licensed child care centres and home child care agencies are eligible to apply for CWELCC, regardless of participation in the local quality initiatives, or current purchase of service status with DNSSAB.
- Families with children 6 years of age and under residing in the district of Nipissing.



District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-13
Policy	Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System		
Effective Date	April 2022	Annual Review	April 2023
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#### 4. **Restrictions**

- In order to be eligible to participate in the CWELCC System, the Service Provider's program/services must align with local priorities and plans.
- To receive any of the CWELCC Funding, Service Providers must have a fully executed agreement with DNSSAB.
- Service Providers must demonstrate financial viability in order to qualify for Funding under the CWELCC System.
- Service Providers must maintain a license in good standing with, and not in contravention of, the Act.
- Service Providers must complete the annual Licensed Child Care Operations Survey, as required by a ministry director.
- The Service Provider may not exceed two consecutive weeks of closure, and not more than four weeks of closure within a calendar year while still receiving full Funding from the CWELCC System.
- The Service Provider must not charge Base Fees higher for Eligible Children than the Base Fees at which it was capped after March 27, 2022 (unless the Base Fee increase was communicated to parents prior to March 27, 2022).
- Once the Service Provider is enrolled in CWELCC and reduce their fees to the new base fee, the Service Provider is required to maintain its new base fee until they are either required to reduce them again, or they are no longer participating in CWELCC.
- If a Service Provider becomes licensed after March 27, 2022, the cap on the base fee is based on a regional maximum as set out in [O. Reg 137/15](#), which provides a table of capped fees by program and service system manager. These regional maximum fees would also apply to any new age groups that a Service Provider begins operating after March 27, 2022 (e.g., they apply to revise their licence to add an infant room), or where a Service Provider begins operating an age group after March 27, 2022 that the agency had not operated for at least two years (e.g., a Service Provider wishes to use an alternate capacity that has not been used recently or re-open a room that was closed during the pandemic).
- Service Providers participating in the CWELCC System must maintain existing licensed spaces for children from infancy up to and including 5 years of age.

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-13
Policy	Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System		
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- Service Providers participating in the CWELCC system must meet all stipulated timelines as it relates to communication, reimbursement of fees to eligible families, and compensation to eligible staff.
- Funding provided through the CWELCC System is specific to meeting the CWELCC System's objectives.
- In order to receive CWELCC Workforce Compensation Funding, the Service Provider must also apply for the Wage Enhancement Grant.
- A Service Provider entering into a new purchase of service agreement for the CWELCC System will not automatically be eligible to access Child Care, EarlyON and Workforce Allocations (with the exception of the Wage Enhancement Grant) if they are not already in receipt of this funding.

## 5. **Policy**

### Participation in the CWELCC System

- Participation in the CWELCC System is optional for a Service Provider.
- The Service Provider will be able to:
  - Apply to participate in the CWELCC System, or
  - Operate outside the CWELCC System and continue to operate within the regular system.

### CWELCC Application

- The Service Provider that wishes to enroll in the CWELCC System must complete the CWELCC Application Form and agree to all terms of application set out in the form.
- The CWELCC System application will be posted to the DNSSAB Website.

### Processing CWELCC Applications

- Unless there is outstanding information, DNSSAB will review and process the Service Provider's application within 10 business days of having received a completed application.

### Declining CWELCC Applications

- DNSSAB may deny a Service Provider's enrollment in the CWELCC System

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-13
Policy	Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System		
Effective Date	April 2022	Annual Review	April 2023
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- where the Service Provider's program/services do not align with local priorities and plans, or
- if the Service Provider is not able to demonstrate financial viability, or
- if the DNSSAB has strong concerns that the Funding will be used for improper purposes.
- When declining a Service Provider's CWELCC Application, DNSSAB will provide circumstances and rationale in writing to the Service Provider and Ministry within five (5) business days.

#### CWELCC Funding Allocations

- To be eligible for CWELCC Funding, the Service Provider must be enrolled in the CWELCC System and enter into an Agreement with DNSSAB.
- To ensure consistent financial management practices across all Service Providers, DNSSAB will not provide Funding to reduce Base Fees for eligible children in excess of what is required to meet the CWELCC fee reduction initiative.
- Non-Base Fees charged by the Service Provider to parents for things that are not included in the Base Fee, as well as their associated costs, will be omitted by DNSSAB when determining the Funding amounts to be flowed to enrolled Service Providers (for example: fees for picking up a Child late).
- DNSSAB will ensure that Funding provided to Service Providers supports inflationary costs associated with increased program costs in accordance with DNSSAB's budget as well as Policies and Guidelines.
- To support wage increases for eligible staff, CWELCC Funding will be provided by DNSSAB to the Service Providers to support with the actual cost associated with the implementation of the wage floor, annual wage increases and minimum wage offset in accordance with Policies and Guidelines.
- Depending on Funding availability, additional Funding allocations may be provided to support with the gap between Actual Cost of Care and the Base Fee paid to the Service Providers. Service Providers must complete the actual cost of care workbook for each program area in order to be eligible for this additional allocation. The allocations will be determined using a consistent, transparent and equitable approach and in accordance to Policies and Guidelines.

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-13
Policy	Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System		
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- CWELCC Funding amounts (i.e. fee reduction, workforce compensation, actual cost of care) to Service Providers will be determined in accordance with Policies and Guidelines and at the discretion of DNSSAB.

#### Reporting and Reconciliations

- On an annual basis, Service Providers are required to reconcile CWELCC Funding entitlements with actual expenditures, in the prescribed format provided by DNSSAB.
- DNSSAB will collect appropriate and detailed financial and program information from Service Providers related to the operations of child care for eligible children, fee reduction, as well as staff supported with workforce compensation.
- Any adjustments and recoveries of Funding will be determined at the discretion of DNSSAB's CWELCC reconciliation process.

#### Random Audits and Additional Reports

- On an annual basis, DNSSAB will conduct random audit/reviews of CWELCC Funding to ensure that Service Providers adhere to established Policies and Guidelines as well as the terms and conditions set out in the Agreement with DNSSAB.
- The Service Provider, for the provision of CWELCC, shall permit DNSSAB to observe and evaluate the distribution of CWELCC Funding provided or audit/review the financial records and books of account.
- Any unused or misused CWELCC Funds shall be recovered by DNSSAB.
- Non-compliant Service Providers may be deemed ineligible to receive future CWELCC funding.

#### Reserves and Retained Earnings

- The Service Provider will be permitted to accumulate financial reserves or retained earnings to support with working capital requirements in accordance to Policies and Guidelines as well as the Agreement with DNSSAB.

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-13
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### Audited Financial Statements

- The Service Provider is required to submit to DNSSAB audited financial statements prepared by a licensed public accountant and a Management Letter (issued by the external auditor) within four months of the Service Provider's year-end.

### Appeals

- DNSSAB will ensure that a dispute resolution process is in place to allow Service Providers to bring forward issues regarding CWELCC System eligibility and funding decisions.
- Individuals with concerns will be asked to complete the "Service Provider Appeal Form" to ensure adequate and appropriate follow-up.
- The "Service Provider Appeal Form" will be made available on the DNSSAB's website along with the information related to the CWELCC System.
- When received, DNSSAB will review and respond to the Service Provider's appeal within ten (10) business days.

### Inquiries

- Individuals inquiring about the CWELCC System must complete the "CWELCC Inquiry Form" to ensure adequate and appropriate follow-up.
- The "CWELCC Inquiry Form" will be made available on the DNSSAB's website along with the information related to the CWELCC System.
- When received, DNSSAB will review and respond to inquiries within two (2) business days.

## **6. Policy Update**

This policy will be subject to change based upon Ministry's Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Service Management Funding Guideline For Consolidated Municipal Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards and/or municipal/provincial/local best practices.

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-13
Policy	Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System		
Effective Date	April 2022	Annual Review	April 2023
Revision Date	September 2022	Board Approval	

## 7. **Definitions**

The words and phrases listed below when used in this policy shall have the following meaning ascribed to them:

- “Act” means the [Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014, S.O. 2014, C.11](#) as amended, and the regulations thereunder.
- “Actual Cost” means the total daily costs calculated based on actual program costs incurred in the portion of the Service Providers’ child care business for Eligible Children, net of fee generated revenues received by the Service Provider from Base Fees, any provincial and current ELCC funding, municipal funding, and other revenues provided to a Service Provider to support the costs associated with Base Fee for Eligible Children.
- “Agreement” means a service agreement between the DNSSAB and Child Care Service Provider.
- “Base Fee” means the daily rate or any fee or part of a fee that is charged to Eligible Families for child care services, including anything a Service Provider is required to provide under the Act or anything a Service Provider requires the parent to purchase from the Service Provider, but does not include a Non-Base Fee.
- “Board” means the Board of Directors of the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board.
- “Business Days” means any working day, Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding Statutory or other holidays, namely: New Year’s Day; Family Day; Good Friday; Easter Monday; Victoria Day; Canada Day; Civic Holiday; Labour Day; Thanksgiving Day; Remembrance Day; Christmas Day, Boxing Day and any other day which DNSSAB has elected to be closed for business.
- “CWELCC” means the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System.
- “DNSSAB” means the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board.
- “Eligible Child” any child, until the last day of the month in which the child turns 6 years old; and up until June 30 in a calendar year, any child who (a) turns six years old between January 1 and June 30 in that calendar year, and (b) is enrolled in a licensed infant, toddler, preschool or kindergarten group, a licensed family age group, or home child care, as defined in the Act.

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-13
Policy	Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System		
Effective Date	April 2022	Annual Review	April 2023
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- “Funding or Funds” means the money the DNSSAB provides to the Service Provider related to the provisions under the CWELCC System.
- “Licensed Child Care” means an agency who provides centre based or home child care for one or more children and has a licence issued by the Ministry of Education under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*.
- “Minimum Wage” means the lowest hourly rate of pay that a Child Care Service Provider can pay an employee.
- “Ministry” means Ministry of Education for the Province of Ontario or any successor ministry, department or government body.
- “Non-Base Fee” means any fees charged for optional items or optional services, such as transportation or field trips, or any fees charged pursuant to an agreement between the parent and the Service Provider in respect of circumstances where the parent fails to meet the terms of the agreement (e.g. fees for picking up a child late, fees to obtain items that the parent agreed to provide for their child but failed to provide), as defined in the Act.
- “Policies and Guidelines” means the policies and guidelines of the Ministry and DNSSAB, as amended or replaced from time to time.
- “Service Provider(s)” means an independent agency providing Licensed Child Care services.
- “WEG” means Wage Enhancement Grant.

## 8. **References and Related Statements of Policy and Procedures**

- Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Service Management Funding Guideline For Consolidated Municipal Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards (Ministry of Education, updated annually).
- Child Care and Early Years Act 2014.
- 5CS-ADM Policy 10 - Wage Enhancement Grant and Home Child Care Enhancement Grant

## BRIEFING NOTE CS02-23

☒ For Information or ☐ For Approval

**Date:** April 26, 2023

**Purpose:** **Knowing Our Numbers (KON) Project**

**Prepared by:** Lynn Démoré-Pitre, Director Children's Services

**Reviewed by:** Justin Avery, Manager of Finance

**Approved by:** Catherine Matheson, Chief Administrative Officer

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### ***Alignment with Strategic Plan: Healthy, Sustainable Communities***

☒ Maximize Impact ☐ Removed Barriers ☐ Seamless Access ☒ Learn & Grow

Report CS02-23 provides information on the Knowing Our Numbers (KON) Project, designed to offer local and provincial child care data, to support planning and investment decisions.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2021, the federal budget proposed to invest up to \$27.2 billion over five years towards a national early learning and child care plan, starting in 2021-22 as part of initial 5-year agreements.

On March 28, 2022, the Governments of Ontario and Canada signed the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement. The Province of Ontario reached a \$13.2 billion commitment over six years with the federal government on a national child care plan.

Funding under the CWELCC Agreement will be used to build and leverage the success of Ontario's existing early learning and child care system by increasing quality, accessibility, affordability and inclusivity in early learning and child care, towards achieving the objectives of:

- Providing fee reductions for licensed early learning and child care services reaching an average parent fee of \$10 a day by 2025-26 for licensed child care spaces;
- Creating 86,000 new high-quality, affordable licensed child care spaces (relative to 2019 levels), predominantly through not-for-profit licensed child care;
- Addressing barriers to providing inclusive child care; and
- Valuing the early childhood workforce and providing them with training and development opportunities.



On March 22, 2023, the DNSSAB's Community Services Committee received Briefing Note CS01-23 related to the CWELCC Space Allocation Plan, which provided an overview of the plan to expand licensed child care services within the district and highlighted the recruitment and retention challenges the early years and child care sector is facing.

### **CURRENT STATUS/STEPS TAKEN TO DATE**

In April 2022 the Atkinson Centre at the University of Toronto released [Canada's Children Need a Professional Early Childhood Workforce](#).

While the report provided a detailed analysis of the child care workforce across Canada, it did not offer the information at a district level to support local policy, planning or investment decisions. The Knowing Our Numbers (KON) Project is intended to fill this gap.

The KON Project is a province-wide study with a district lens bringing together service system managers to better understand the status of the early years and child care workforce and to support cross-jurisdictional understandings and best practices.

The results of the KON Project are intended to allow for community comparators, highlight common trends, identify staffing gaps and workforce deserts, track year-by-year trends and district strengths, as well as determining priority areas.

The KON Project will be rolled out in two Phases:

- Phase One: Achieving Success  
This phase will include a jurisdictional scan (i.e. review of data being collected at a local level), identification of data gaps (i.e. inconsistencies in data collection) and identification of partnerships (i.e. determining partner needs and requirements to sustain data collection, analysis and reporting).
- Phase Two: Achieve Quality  
This phase will include a review of the wages of professionals in Ontario, designing a survey tool that incorporates elements of the workforce (i.e. staff wages, turnover, recruitment challenges, job satisfaction, etc.), review the current living wage and self-sufficiency standards, as well as data collection, analysis and reporting.

As of March 30, 2023, forty-two of the forty-seven service system managers had officially joined the KON Project:

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Algoma District Social Services Administration Board | 10. City of Toronto                |
| 2. City of Brantford                                    | 11. City of Windsor                |
| 3. City of Cornwall                                     | 12. County of Bruce                |
| 4. City of Greater Sudbury                              | 13. County of Dufferin             |
| 5. City of Hamilton                                     | 14. County of Grey                 |
| 6. City of Kawartha Lakes                               | 15. County of Hastings             |
| 7. City of Kingston                                     | 16. County of Huron                |
| 8. City of Ottawa                                       | 17. County of Lambton              |
| 9. City of St. Thomas                                   | 18. County of Lanark               |
|   | 19. County of Lennox and Addington |

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 20. County of Northumberland  | 31. District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board |
| 21. County of Oxford  | 32. Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board                   |
| 22. County of Renfrew   | 33. Municipality of Chatham-Kent                                 |
| 23. County of Simcoe  | 34. Norfolk County   |
| 24. County of Wellington  | 35. Regional Municipality of Durham                              |
| 25. District Municipality of Muskoka                                  | 36. Regional Municipality of Halton                              |
| 26. District of Cochrane Social Services Administration Board         | 37. Regional Municipality of Niagara                             |
| 27. District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board        | 38. Regional Municipality of Peel                                |
| 28. District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board      | 39. Regional Municipality of Waterloo                            |
| 29. District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board | 40. Regional Municipality of York                                |
| 30. District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board      | 41. United Counties of Leeds & Grenville                         |
|   | 42. United Counties of Prescott and Russell                      |

At that time, the KON Project team was in also in conversation with the District of Rainy River Social Services Administration Board.

## **RESOURCES REQUIRED**

The total cost of participating in the Knowing Our Number Project is \$25,000 and will be funded within the 2023 approved budget allocation.

## **CONCLUSION**

The biggest challenge that the early years and child care sector is facing is staff recruitment and retention. By participating in the KON Project, DNSSAB will gain a measurement tool that is designed to support with workforce data collection at a local and provincial level. The data that is collected will support with planning and inform local policy and investment decisions.

## BOARD REPORT CS03-23

☐ For Information or ☒ For Approval

**Date:** April 26, 2023  
**Purpose:** Children's Services One-Time Special Purpose Funding Policies  
**Prepared by:** Lynn Démoré-Pitre, Director Children's Services  
**Reviewed by:** Justin Avery, Manager of Finance  
**Approved by:** Catherine Matheson, Chief Administrative Officer

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### ***Alignment with Strategic Plan: Healthy, Sustainable Communities***

☒ Maximize Impact  
 ☒ Remove Barriers  
 ☒ Seamless Access  
 ☐ Learn & Grow

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board accept and approve the updated one-time special purpose funding policies as listed below and described in briefing note CS03-23:

- 1) Policy: Transformation Funding (Appendix A)
- 2) Policy: Play-Based Materials and Equipment Funding (Appendix B)
- 3) Policy: Repairs and Maintenance Funding (Appendix C)

### **BACKGROUND**

DNSSAB is the designated child care and early years service system manager responsible for the planning and managing of licensed child care services and EarlyON Child and Family Centres throughout the District of Nipissing.

DNSSAB's policies and practices are planned and implemented to reflect legislation, regulations, directives and best practices, which include the *Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Service Management Funding Guideline for Consolidated Municipal Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards*.

The Ministry of Education encourages service system managers to adopt a standard approach to managing the delivery of early years and child care services.

## **CURRENT STATUS/STEPS TAKEN TO DATE**

The attached policies have been updated to promote further transparency, accountabilities and consistency in application and implementation for all licensed child care service providers.

More specifically, all policies have been updated to include further details related to the supporting documentation and quotations.

Policies, guidelines and applications for one-time special purpose funding will be made available following the approval of the attached policies.

### **One-Time Special Purpose Funding Overview:**

**Transformation Funding:** This funding is intended to support with one-time costs for licensed child care service providers, including licensed child care centres and home child care agencies that are involved in business transformation activities and/or require business transformation supports.

**Play-Based Material and Equipment Funding:** This funding is intended to support service providers to deliver high quality child care services and to help create enriching environments both indoors and outdoors with open ended materials that promote children's learning and development through exploration, play and inquiry consistent with the views, four foundations and pedagogical approaches of [How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years](#).

**Repairs and Maintenance Funding:** This funding is to support licensed child care centres and home child care agencies that are not in compliance with licensing requirements or may be at risk of not being in compliance with licensing requirements under the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014. Funding is also intended to cover one-time repair and maintenance costs.

## **RESOURCES REQUIRED, RISKS AND MITIGATION**

Funding allocations for each one-time special purpose funding is determined through the DNSSAB budget process. From time to time, flexibility within the budget may be exercised to enhance budgeted allocations to address concerns within the sector and support with access to high quality licensed child care services.

The established policies help to mitigate potential risk by ensuring further alignment with best practices and local priorities. Furthermore, they are intended to support a fair, equitable, accountable and transparent decision making process.

## **CONCLUSION**

DNSSAB will ensure that ongoing communication and messaging regarding policies is handled in a proficient manner through various methods (i.e. website, guidelines, memorandums, etc.) which in turn will ensure that the necessary information reaches the appropriate service providers throughout the district.

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-04
Policy	1x Special Purpose Funding: Transformation Funding		
Effective Date	June 2014	Annual Review	April 2023
Revision Date	April 2023	Board Approval	

### 1. **Policy Statement**

The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) is committed to ensuring that transformation funding allocated to Service Providers is distributed through a process that is fair, accountable and transparent to ensure the delivery of quality early learning and child care programs throughout the District.

Transformation funding supports program viability and facilitates licensed child care transformation. Funding is intended to cover one-time costs for Licensed Child Care Service Providers, including licensed child care centres and home child care agencies that are involved in business transformation activities and/or require business transformation supports.

### 2. **Goals, Objectives and Purpose**

- To define a policy in regards to the allocation of the transformation funding.
- To adopt a standard approach in managing Funding applications and allocations.
- To ensure fairness among all Licensed Child Care Service Providers.
- To ensure equity, openness, accountability and transparency.
- To align with the Ministry's vision and pedagogical approach.
- To obtain the best value for the use of public funds.
- To maintain the integrity of the process.
- To support affordable, quality, inclusive and accessible licensed child care services.
- To administer Funds within the discretion of the Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Service Management Funding Guideline For Consolidated Municipal Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards.

### 3. **Persons or Groups Affected**

- Licensed Child Care Service Providers with an existing purchase of service agreement with DNSSAB.

### 4. **Restrictions**

- The availability of one-time Funding will depend on Ministry funding and DNSSAB's Children's Services budget flexibility.

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-04
Policy	1x Special Purpose Funding: Transformation Funding		
Effective Date	June 2014	Annual Review	April 2023
Revision Date	April 2023	Board Approval	

- DNSSAB may provide Funding to licensed child care Service Providers with a purchase of service agreement from DNSSAB in order to support and promote access to quality early learning and child care programs.

## 5. **Policy**

- Whenever possible, DNSSAB will work collaboratively with School Boards and Service Providers to align the use of transformation funding with investments under the Schools-First Child Care Capital Retrofit funding.
- Business transformation activities are defined as, but not limited to:
  - The amalgamation of two or more licensed child care centres in a school or a community setting;
  - The relocation of a licensed child care to a school or within the community;
  - The retrofitting of an existing licensed and child care centre to serve younger age groups.

### Funding Applications

- DNSSAB will consider one-time Funding applications on an ongoing basis, in accordance with funding availability and Policies and Guidelines.
- Applications and guidelines will be made available to all service providers and will be posted to DNSSAB's Children's Services website.
- Service Providers wishing to apply for Funding will complete the application for Funding in the prescribed manner.
- Requests must:
  - be supported, where appropriate, by relevant documentation/plan that confirms the business transformation activity that will take place;
  - be supported by quotes (in accordance to the required quotations as described below and within the agency's purchasing policy and process) and current-year receipts and/or paid invoices.

### Processing Applications

- Unless there is outstanding information, DNSSAB will review and process the Service Provider's application within 15 business days of the application's closure date in accordance with established budget, priorities, Policies and Guidelines.

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-04
Policy	1x Special Purpose Funding: Transformation Funding		
Effective Date	June 2014	Annual Review	April 2023
Revision Date	April 2023	Board Approval	

#### Eligible Expenditures

- Business transformation supports include the following one-time expenses:
  - Legal costs (available only to operators that are amalgamating);
  - Lease termination costs (available only to operators that are amalgamating and/or relocating);
  - Moving costs (available only to operators that are amalgamating and/or relocating);
  - Business planning costs;
  - IT upgrades to facilitate internet connectivity for business purposes;
  - Play-based material and equipment;
  - Operating funding to support the viability of child care operators that are transforming their business model; and/or
  - Funding to home child care agencies for home visitors to help support recruitment of home child care providers in under-served areas.

#### Quotations

- Service Providers must ensure to solicit and submit the minimum number of quotes as described in the chart below.
- If the Service Provider's internal policy requires additional quotes or following a specific procurement process, the Service Provider must also follow the agency's procurement policy and process.
- If unable to meet the established quotation requirement (i.e. supplier with special knowledge, skills or expertise), the service provider must demonstrate that every effort was undertaken to meet the requirement (i.e. written documentation of failed search).

Quotation Requirements for Purchase of Goods and Services	
\$0 – \$24,999	1 written quote detailing purchase and/or scope of work to be completed
\$25,000 - \$49,999	2 written quotes detailing purchase and/or scope of work to be completed
\$50,000 +	3 written quotes detailing purchase and/or scope of work to be completed

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-04
Policy	1x Special Purpose Funding: Transformation Funding		
Effective Date	June 2014	Annual Review	April 2023
Revision Date	April 2023	Board Approval	

### Funding Priorities

- Priority will be given to requests that demonstrate the most critical and time sensitive needs.
- Once the above priority has been addressed, funding will be allocated within priorities identified by the service provider (i.e. first addressing all agency identified "Priority 1" then moving to next agency identified priority until funding has been exhausted.)

### Reporting and Reconciliations

- Service Providers in receipt of Funding will be required to reconcile the Funding allocation with actual expenditures, in the prescribed format provided by DNSSAB.
- As part of the reconciliation process, the Service Provider will be required to submit invoices and a copy of the cancelled cheque or proof of payment to DNSSAB.
- Any adjustments and recoveries of funding will be determined through the reconciliation process.
- Any unused or misused Funds shall be recovered by DNSSAB.

### Appeals

- DNSSAB will ensure that a dispute resolution process is in place to allow Service Providers to bring forward issues regarding Funding decisions.
- Individuals with concerns will be asked to complete the "Service Provider Appeal Form" to ensure adequate and appropriate follow-up.
- The "Service Provider Appeal Form" will be made available on the DNSSAB's website along with the information related to 1x special purpose funding applications.
- When received, DNSSAB will review and respond to the Service Provider's appeal within ten (10) business days.

## **6. Annual Policy Update**

This policy will be updated on an annual basis to reflect updates and addendums made to the Ministry's Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Service Management Funding Guideline For Consolidated Municipal Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards and/or municipal/provincial/local best practices.



District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-04
Policy	1x Special Purpose Funding: Transformation Funding		
Effective Date	June 2014	Annual Review	April 2023
Revision Date	April 2023	Board Approval	

## 7. **Definitions**

The words and phrases listed below when used in this policy shall have the following meaning ascribed to them:

- “Act” means the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014.
- “Agreement” means a service agreement between the DNSSAB and Child Care Service Provider.
- “Board” means the Board of Directors of the Nipissing District Social Services Administration Board.
- “Children’s Services Budget” means Board approved department budget including authorized revisions.
- “DNSSAB” means the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board;
- “Funding or Funds” means transformation funding allocated to the Service Provider.
- “Licensed Child Care” means an agency who provides centre based or home child care for one or more children and has a licence issued by the Ministry of Education under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*.
- “Ministry” means Ministry of Education for the Province of Ontario or any successor ministry, department or government body.
- “Policies and Guidelines” means the policies and guidelines of the Ministry and DNSSAB, as amended or replaced from time to time.
- “Service Provider(s)” means an independent agency providing Licensed Child Care services.

## 8. **References and Related Statements of Policy and Procedure**

- Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Service Management Funding Guideline For Consolidated Municipal Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards (Ministry of Education, updated annually).
- Child Care and Early Learning Act 2014.

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-06
Policy	1x Special Purpose Funding: Play-Based Materials and Equipment Funding		
Effective Date	June 2014	Annual Review	April 2023
Revision Date	April 2023	Board Approval	

### 1. **Policy Statement**

The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) is committed to ensuring that play-based material and equipment funding allocated to Service Providers is distributed through a process that is fair, accountable and transparent to ensure the delivery of quality early learning and child care programs throughout the District.

Play-based material and equipment funding is to support the provision of high quality early learning and child care programs for children from infancy up to 13 years of age. Furthermore, the Funding is intended to help service providers create enriching environments both indoors and outdoors with open ended materials that promote children's learning and development through exploration, play and inquiry consistent with the views, four foundations and pedagogical approaches of *How Does Learning Happen?* Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years.

### 2. **Goals, Objectives and Purpose**

- To define a policy in regards to the allocation of the play-based material and equipment funding.
- To adopt a standard approach in managing Funding applications and allocations.
- To ensure fairness among all Licensed Child Care Service Providers.
- To ensure equity, openness, accountability and transparency.
- To align with the Ministry's vision and pedagogical approach.
- To obtain the best value for the use of public funds.
- To maintain the integrity of the process.
- To support affordable, quality, inclusive and accessible licensed child care services.
- To administer Funds within the discretion of the Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Service Management Funding Guideline For Consolidated Municipal Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards.

### 3. **Persons or Groups Affected**

- Children up to 13 years of age enrolled in a licensed child care program in the district of Nipissing.
- Licensed Child Care Service Providers with an existing purchase of service agreement with DNSSAB.

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-06
Policy	1x Special Purpose Funding: Play-Based Materials and Equipment Funding		
Effective Date	June 2014	Annual Review	April 2023
Revision Date	April 2023	Board Approval	

#### 4. **Restrictions**

- The availability of one-time Funding will depend on Ministry funding and DNSSAB's Children's Services budget flexibility.
- DNSSAB may provide Funding to licensed child care Service Providers with a purchase of service agreement from DNSSAB in order to support and promote quality early learning and child care programs.
- Play-Based Materials and Equipment Funding cannot be used for consumable supplies.

#### 5. **Policy**

##### Funding Applications

- DNSSAB will consider one-time Funding applications on an annual basis, in accordance with funding availability and within Policies and Guidelines.
- Applications and guidelines will be made available to all service providers and will be posted to DNSSAB's Children's Services website.
- Service Providers wishing to apply for Funding will complete the application for Funding in the prescribed manner.
- Requests must:
  - be supported where appropriate by relevant documentation from a Ministry personnel;
  - be supported by quotes (in accordance to the required quotations as described below and within the agency's purchasing policy and process) and current-year receipts and/or paid invoices.

##### Processing Applications

- Unless there is outstanding information, DNSSAB will review and process the Service Provider's application within 15 business days of the application's closure date in accordance to established budget, priorities, Policies and Guidelines.

##### Eligible Expenditures

- Play-based material and equipment funding may be used to purchase non-consumable supplies/equipment to support the ongoing regular operation of the licensed child care program and promote children's learning and development

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-06
Policy	1x Special Purpose Funding: Play-Based Materials and Equipment Funding		
Effective Date	June 2014	Annual Review	April 2023
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through exploration, play and inquiry consistent with the provincial pedagogical approach. Request for funding may include, but not limited to:

- kitchen supplies
- IT (i.e. to support with communication, pedagogical documentation, etc.)
- supplies and equipment to support learning environments while adhering to health and safety requirements, etc.

#### Ineligible Expenditures

- Play-Based Materials and Equipment Funding cannot be used for consumable supplies.

#### Funding Priorities

- Priority will be given to requests that demonstrate the most critical and time sensitive needs. Funding will be prioritized for service providers that can demonstrate that they are not in compliance or are at risk of not being in compliance with licensing requirements under the Act.
- Once the above priority has been addressed, funding will be allocated within priorities identified by the service provider (i.e. first addressing all agency identified "Priority 1" then moving to next agency identified priority until funding has been exhausted.)

#### Quotations

- Service Providers must ensure to solicit and submit the minimum number of quotes as described in the chart below.
- If the Service Provider's internal policy requires additional quotes or following a specific procurement process, the Service Provider must also follow the agency's procurement policy and process.
- If unable to meet the established quotation requirement (i.e. supplier with special knowledge, skills or expertise), the service provider must demonstrate that every effort was undertaken to meet the requirement (i.e. written documentation of failed search).

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-06
Policy	1x Special Purpose Funding: Play-Based Materials and Equipment Funding		
Effective Date	June 2014	Annual Review	April 2023
Revision Date	April 2023	Board Approval	

Quotation Requirements for Purchase of Goods and Services	
\$0 – \$24,999	1 written quote detailing purchase and/or scope of work to be completed
\$25,000 - \$49,999	2 written quotes detailing purchase and/or scope of work to be completed
\$50,000 +	3 written quotes detailing purchase and/or scope of work to be completed

#### Reporting and Reconciliations

- The Service Providers in receipt of Funding will be required to reconcile the Funding allocation with actual expenditures, in the prescribed format provided by DNSSAB.
- As part of the reconciliation process, the Service Provider will be required to submit invoices and a copy of the cancelled cheque or proof of payment to DNSSAB.
- Any adjustments and recoveries of funding will be determined through the reconciliation process.
- Any unused or misused Funds shall be recovered by DNSSAB.

#### Appeals

- DNSSAB will ensure that a dispute resolution process is in place to allow Service Providers to bring forward issues regarding Funding decisions.
- Individuals with concerns will be asked to complete the "Service Provider Appeal Form" to ensure adequate and appropriate follow-up.
- The "Service Provider Appeal Form" will be made available on the DNSSAB's website along with the information related to 1x special purpose funding applications.
- When received, DNSSAB will review and respond to the Service Provider's appeal within ten (10) business days.

#### **6. Annual Policy Update**

This policy will be updated on an annual basis to reflect updates and addendums made to the Ministry's Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Service Management Funding Guideline For Consolidated Municipal Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards and/or municipal/provincial/local best practices.

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-06
Policy	1x Special Purpose Funding: Play-Based Materials and Equipment Funding		
Effective Date	June 2014	Annual Review	April 2023
Revision Date	April 2023	Board Approval	

## 7. **Definitions**

The words and phrases listed below when used in this policy shall have the following meaning ascribed to them:

- “Act” means the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014.
- “Agreement” means a service agreement between the DNSSAB and Child Care Service Provider.
- “Board” means the Board of Directors of the Nipissing District Social Services Administration Board.
- “Children’s Services Budget” means Board approved department budget including authorized revisions.
- “DNSSAB” means the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board;
- “Funding or Funds” means play-based material and equipment funding allocated to the Service Provider.
- “Licensed Child Care” means an agency who provides centre based or home child care for one or more children and has a licence issued by the Ministry of Education under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*.
- “Ministry” means Ministry of Education for the Province of Ontario or any successor ministry, department or government body.
- “Policies and Guidelines” means the policies and guidelines of the Ministry and DNSSAB, as amended or replaced from time to time.
- “Service Provider(s)” means an independent agency providing Licensed Child Care services.

## 8. **References and Related Statements of Policy and Procedure**

- Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Service Management Funding Guideline For Consolidated Municipal Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards (Ministry of Education, updated annually).
- Child Care and Early Learning Act 2014.

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-07
Policy	1x Special Purpose Funding: Repairs and Maintenance Funding		
Effective Date	June 2014	Annual Review	
Revision Date	October 2022	Board Approval	October 2022

### 1. **Policy Statement**

The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) is committed to ensuring that repairs and maintenance funding allocated to Service Providers is distributed through a process that is fair, accountable and transparent to ensure the delivery of quality early learning and child care programs throughout the District.

Repairs and maintenance funding is to support licensed child care centres and home child care agencies that are not in compliance with licensing requirements or may be at risk of not being in compliance with licensing requirements under the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014. Funding is also intended to cover one-time repair and maintenance costs.

### 2. **Goals, Objectives and Purpose**

- To define a policy in regards to the allocation of the repairs and maintenance funding.
- To adopt a standard approach in managing Funding applications and allocations.
- To ensure fairness among all Licensed Child Care Service Providers.
- To ensure equity, openness, accountability and transparency.
- To align with the Ministry's vision and pedagogical approach.
- To obtain the best value for the use of public funds.
- To maintain the integrity of the process.
- To support affordable, quality, inclusive and accessible licensed child care services.
- To administer Funds within the discretion of the Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Service Management Funding Guideline For Consolidated Municipal Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards.

### 3. **Persons or Groups Affected**

- Licensed Child Care Service Providers with an existing purchase of service agreement with DNSSAB.
- Children up to 13 years of age enrolled in a licensed child care program in the district of Nipissing.

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-07
Policy	1x Special Purpose Funding: Repairs and Maintenance Funding		
Effective Date	June 2014	Annual Review	
Revision Date	October 2022	Board Approval	October 2022

#### 4. Restrictions

- DNSSAB may provide Funding to Service Providers with a Purchase of Service Agreement from DNSSAB in order to support health and well-being and promote quality programs.
- The availability of Funds will depend on Ministry funding and DNSSAB's Children's Services budget flexibility.
- Repairs and maintenance funding cannot be used for program expansion.

#### 5. Policy

##### Funding Applications

- DNSSAB will consider one-time Funding applications on an annual basis, in accordance with Funding availability and within Policies and Guidelines.
- Applications and guidelines will be made available to all service providers and will be posted to DNSSAB's Children's Services website.
- Service Providers wishing to apply for Funding will complete the application for Funding in the prescribed manner.
- Requests must:
  - be supported where appropriate by relevant documentation from a health and safety authority, fire inspector; health inspector or Ministry personnel;
  - be supported by quotes (in accordance to the required quotations as described below and within the agency's purchasing policy and process) and current-year receipts and/or paid invoices.

##### Processing Applications

- Unless there is outstanding information, DNSSAB will review and process the Service Provider's application within 15 business days of the application's closure date in accordance to established budget, priorities, Policies and Guidelines.

##### Eligible Expenditures

- Common areas of health and safety concern that may be eligible for repairs and maintenance funding may include, but are not limited to:



District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
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- Food Preparation - which may include but not limited to the addition, repair or replacement of: hand washing sink in the kitchen, dishwasher or hot water booster and/ or major appliances.
- Major Systems – which may include but not limited to addition, repair or replacement of: leaking roof, building foundation, heating/cooling system, ventilation system, sump pump, fire detection alarm changes and upgrades, emergency lighting, accessibility, windows or doors, asbestos removal or encapsulation, secure entrances, wiring upgrades and fencing.
- Play Area – which may include but not limited to the addition, repair or replacement of: damaged walls, peeling paint that may contain lead, cot storage facilities, windows, worn flooring material, worn or damaged ceilings and/or damaged outdoor play climbers or outdoor safety surfacing.
- Washrooms – which may include but not limited to the addition, repair or replacement of: fixtures, partitions, flooring materials, change table/area.

#### Ineligible Expenditures

- Repairs and maintenance funding cannot be used for program expansion.

#### Funding Priorities

- Priority will be given to requests that demonstrate the most critical and time sensitive needs. Funding will be prioritized for service providers that can demonstrate that they are not in compliance or are at risk of not being in compliance with licensing requirements under the Act.
- Once the above priority has been addressed, funding will be allocated within priorities identified by the service provider (i.e. first addressing all agency identified "Priority 1" then moving to next agency identified priority until funding has been exhausted.)

#### Quotations

- Service Providers must ensure to solicit and submit the minimum number of quotes as described in the chart below.
- If the Service Provider's internal policy requires additional quotes or following a specific procurement process, the Service Provider must also follow the agency's procurement policy and process.

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-07
Policy	1x Special Purpose Funding: Repairs and Maintenance Funding		
Effective Date	June 2014	Annual Review	
Revision Date	October 2022	Board Approval	October 2022

- If unable to meet the established quotation requirement (i.e. supplier with special knowledge, skills or expertise), the service provider must demonstrate that every effort was undertaken to meet the requirement (i.e. written documentation of failed search).

Quotation Requirements for Purchase of Goods and Services	
\$0 – \$24,999	1 written quote detailing purchase and/or scope of work to be completed
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\$50,000 +	3 written quotes detailing purchase and/or scope of work to be completed

#### Reporting and Reconciliations

- The Service Providers in receipt of Funding will be required to reconcile the Funding allocation with actual expenditures, in the prescribed format provided by DNSSAB.
- As part of the reconciliation process, the Service Provider will be required to submit invoices and a copy of the cancelled cheque or proof of payment to DNSSAB.
- Any adjustments and recoveries of funding will be determined through the reconciliation process.
- Any unused or misused Funds shall be recovered by DNSSAB.

#### Appeals

- DNSSAB will ensure that a dispute resolution process is in place to allow Service Providers to bring forward issues regarding funding decisions.
- Individuals with concerns will be asked to complete the "Service Provider Appeal Form" to ensure adequate and appropriate follow-up.
- The "Service Provider Appeal Form" will be made available on the DNSSAB's website along with the information related to 1x special purpose funding applications.
- When received, DNSSAB will review and respond to the Service Provider's appeal within ten (10) business days.

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-07
Policy	1x Special Purpose Funding: Repairs and Maintenance Funding		
Effective Date	June 2014	Annual Review	
Revision Date	October 2022	Board Approval	October 2022

## 6. Annual Policy Update

This policy will be updated on an annual basis to reflect updates and addendums made to the Ministry's Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Service Management Funding Guideline For Consolidated Municipal Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards and/or municipal/provincial/local best practices.

## 7. Definitions

The words and phrases listed below when used in this policy shall have the following meaning ascribed to them:

- "Act" means the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014.
- "Agreement" means a service agreement between the DNSSAB and Child Care Service Provider.
- "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Nipissing District Social Services Administration Board.
- "Children's Services Budget" means Board approved department budget including authorized revisions.
- "DNSSAB" means the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board.
- "Funding or Funds" means repairs and maintenance funding allocated to the Service Provider.
- "Licensed Child Care" means an agency who provides centre based or home child care for one or more children and has a licence issued by the Ministry of Education under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*.
- "Ministry" means Ministry of Education for the Province of Ontario or any successor ministry, department or government body.
- "Policies and Guidelines" means the policies and guidelines of the Ministry and DNSSAB, as amended or replaced from time to time.
- "Service Provider(s)" means an independent agency providing Licensed Child Care services.

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board			
Department	Children's Services	Policy Number	5CS-ADM-07
Policy	1x Special Purpose Funding: Repairs and Maintenance Funding		
Effective Date	June 2014	Annual Review	
Revision Date	October 2022	Board Approval	October 2022

## **8. References and Related Statements of Policy and Procedure**

- Ontario Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Service Management Funding Guideline For Consolidated Municipal Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards (Ministry of Education, updated annually).
- Child Care and Early Learning Act 2014.

## BRIEFING NOTE    SSE03-23

☒ For Information or ☐ For Approval

**Date:** April 26, 2023

**Purpose:** **Ontario Works Transitional Support Case Management  
Community Integration Plan**

**Prepared by:** Michelle Glabb

**Reviewed by:** Justin Avery, Manager of Finance

**Approved by:** Catherine Matheson, Chief Administrative Officer

### ***Alignment with Strategic Plan: Healthy, Sustainable Communities***

☒ **Maximize Impact**    ☒ **Removed Barriers**    ☒ **Seamless Access**    ☐ **Learn & Grow**

Report SSE03-23 provides details on the Ontario Works (OW) Transitional Support Case Management Community Integration Plan for information purposes.

## **BACKGROUND**

In September 2020, The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) released the Social Assistance Recovery and Renewal Plan. This plan outlined a new vision for social assistance in Ontario that is supported by a number of modernization initiatives designed to increase efficiencies, improve outcomes and better support recipients. As reported through Briefing Note SSE01-23, in Nipissing, a number of these modernization initiatives have been implemented and preparations are underway for the Employment Services Transformation (EST) that will shift the Ontario Works employment services mandate to Employment Ontario (EO). When the transformation is complete, the focus for Ontario Works will be the delivery of life stabilization person-centered services that are intended to help prepare social assistance recipients as they move forward along the employment continuum.

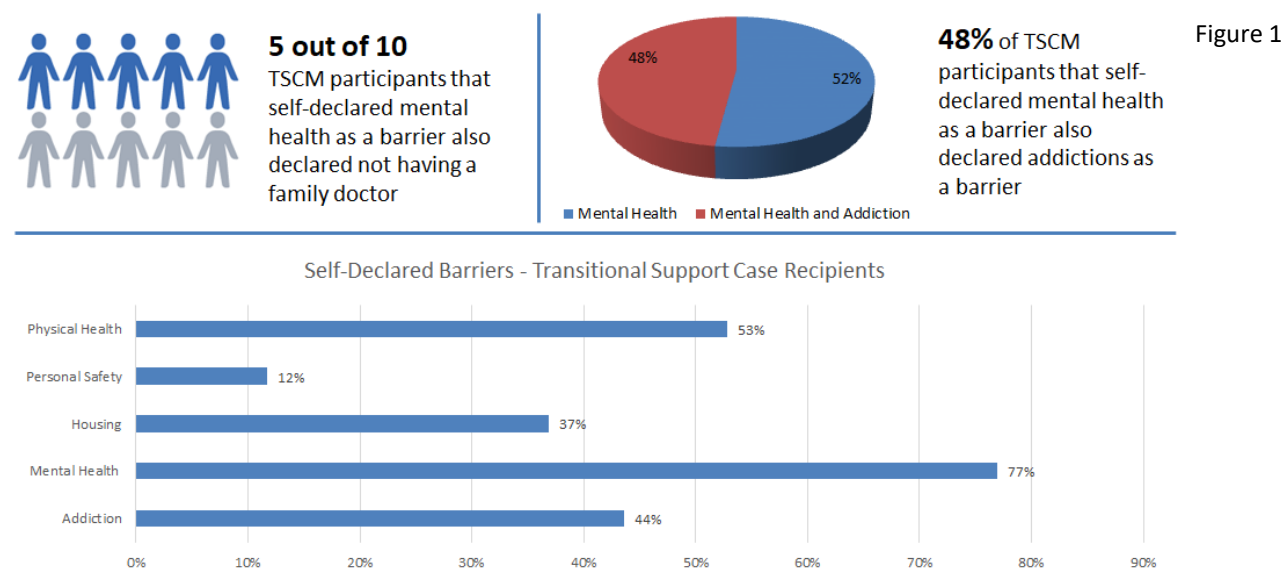
Life stabilization supports and services are not new to the OW program. In fact, in Nipissing and prior to the long term vision of social assistance being announced, the need for enhanced services related to mental health and addiction was identified. In response to this, three Transitional Support Case Manager (TSCM) positions were created in 2018. A fourth TSCM position was created in 2020, followed by a fifth in 2021. The positions were created by re-profiling vacancies as they became available and did not increase the overall staffing compliment. One of the five TSCM positions is designated bilingual and carries a caseload with clients from the North Bay, Mattawa and Sturgeon Falls offices.

TSCM's carry a caseload like a regular Ontario Works Case Manager but manage a smaller caseload comprised of OW recipients that have self-identified the most significant mental health and/or addiction issues. Like other Case Managers, TSCM's work with their clients to help them navigate the system, make referrals and advocate on their behalf. TSCM's tend to meet more frequently with individuals on their caseload as they often need more guidance and support. Due to the complexity of their caseload, TSCM's work closely with a number of community partners to provide wrap around supports and services. It should also be noted that to ensure that TSCM's have the expertise to serve individuals experiencing mental health and addiction, the qualifications for the position were adjusted accordingly.

It should be noted that while the creation of these positions increased OW's capacity to better serve recipients struggling with significant barriers, many more remain on regular caseloads. For this reason, ongoing training for all Case Managers on mental health and addiction will remain a priority for the department.

## CURRENT STATUS

The TSCM team currently serves 288 participants which equates to approximately 15% of the caseload. According to a snapshot from the employment database taken on March 3, 2023 and as illustrated in Figure 1 below, 77% of all TSCM participants self-declared mental health issues and 44% self-declared addiction issues, along with other barriers related to housing instability, safety challenges and physical health. Of the participants that self-declared mental health, 48% also declared addiction as a barrier to employment and 52% declared not having a family doctor.



\* Snapshot taken March 3, 2023 from the Employment Database

\*\* Data is based on the 282 participants that completed an employment assessment and have been assigned to TSCM

## Community Integration

In an effort to enhance services to better connect with vulnerable populations and extend the reach of the OW program, OW began looking for opportunities to increase its community presence in meaningful and valuable ways that are also operationally

feasible. There are a number of benefits associated to expanding community presence which include:

- Improving access to services by bringing the service to the people instead of the people to the service.
- Creates an opportunity to build rapport with clients in a new way and in a new location which can help to identify and resolve issues before they become a crisis.
- Opportunity to build relationships with community partners which, in turn, can lead to a more fulsome understanding of available services.

The first initiative to increase community presence began in March 2023 and involved having a member of the TSCM team working off-site at a Nipissing District Housing Corporation social housing building two afternoons a month beginning in March. The social housing building selected has historically experienced challenges as many of the tenants have complex needs, including mental health and addiction. These barriers can make it difficult for recipients to navigate and access services at DNSSAB locations.

Going forward, OW will be looking for additional opportunities to expand its community presence at additional human service locations, including the Northern Pines transitional housing program. While it is the TSCM team that has been mobilized to date, other frontline positions within the OW department may be included in this initiative in the future.

## **RISK IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION**

The investment of time and resources to increase community presence provides opportunities to enhance services and build partnerships. However, it should be noted that there is some risk operationally that needs to be managed. For example, efforts need to be made to ensure that services being delivered continue to be within the scope of the OW mandate. Steps also need to be taken to ensure that the time and resources required to deliver services off-site are of value and improve quality. To mitigate these risks, staff who have been mobilized into the community are fully equipped with the technology they need to work remotely off-site. This will maximize their productivity during periods where there may be no client interaction. In addition, a tracking mechanism has been put in place to monitor the frequency of and reasons for client interaction and to ensure that the work being done falls within scope.

## **CONCLUSION**

Individuals with complex needs are often faced with a combination of issues that typically require supports from multiple sectors. They also often encounter financial, social and cultural barriers to accessing services which only serve to put them at a further disadvantage. The recent initiative to bring OW services to a social housing building is a prime example of a mutually beneficial cross-program collaboration that improves client access to service, builds relationships and has the potential to mitigate risks that may have otherwise escalated into crisis situations. Having mechanisms in place to track and monitor this initiative will help DNSSAB to ensure that it garners the desired outcomes and to inform future initiatives of this nature. From a program perspective, increasing community presence is well aligned with the provinces vision for social assistance delivery and will assist Nipissing with making the transition from the

delivery of employment services into a program more focused on life stabilization.



## BRIEFING NOTE HS09-23

☒ For Information or ☐ For Approval

**Date:** April 26, 2023  
**Purpose:** Centralized Waitlist, Service Levels and COHB Update  
**Prepared by:** Stacey Cyopeck, Director, Housing Services  
**Reviewed by:** Justin Avery, Manager of Finance  
**Approved by:** Catherine Matheson, Chief Administrative Officer

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### ***Alignment with Strategic Plan: Healthy, Sustainable Communities***

☒ Maximize Impact  
 ☒ Remove Barriers  
 ☒ Seamless Access  
 ☐ Learn & Grow

Report HS09-23 provides an update on the centralized waitlist, service levels for rent-geared-to-income assistance, and Canada Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB), for information.

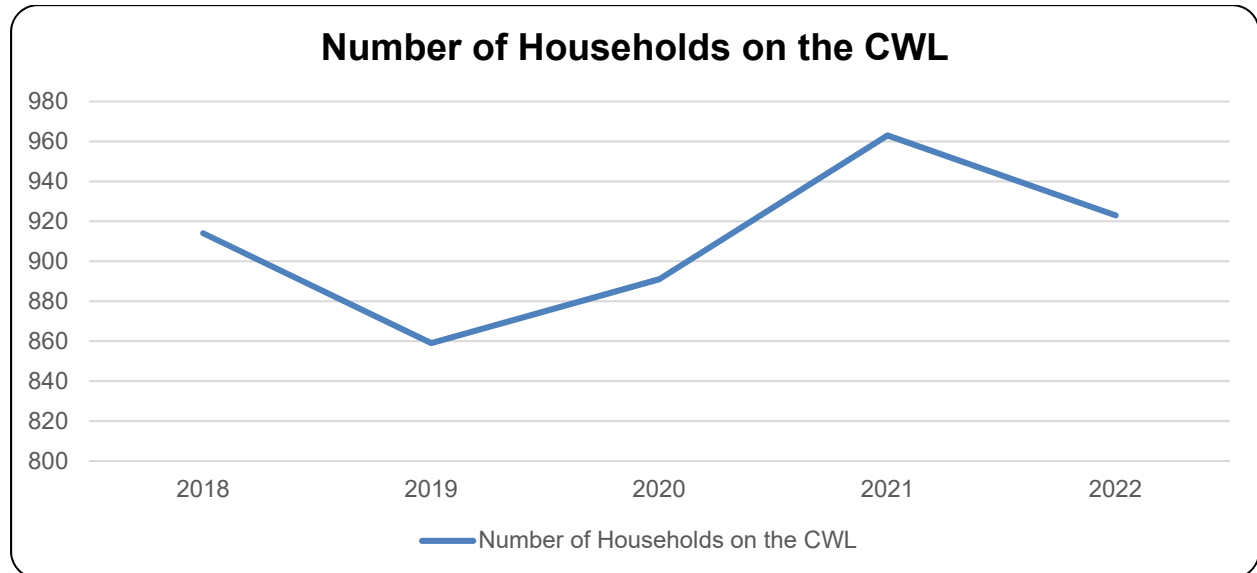
## **BACKGROUND**

- The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board is the Service Manager responsible for the administration and management of the centralized waitlist (CWL) for rent-geared-to-income (RGI) assistance in the District of Nipissing.
- The *Housing Services Act, 2011* provides a legislative framework for the administration of the CWL with some local flexibilities established through local housing policies.
- The *Housing Services Act, 2011* requires Service Managers to assist a prescribed number of households whose income falls below the Household Income Limits (HILs), and a prescribed number of high need households. These are known as service levels.
- The COHB program is a federal-provincial rental subsidy program that launched on April 1, 2020. The program is jointly funded through the CMHC-Ontario Bilateral Agreement under the 2017 National Housing Strategy and is provincially delivered. While households in receipt of COHB are removed from the CWL, these households do not contribute towards service levels.

## CURRENT STATUS/STEPS TAKEN TO DATE

### Centralized Waitlist Demographics

As of December 31, 2022, the total number of households on the CWL was 923. Over the past 5 years, the total number of households on the CWL has remained relatively stable and has fluctuated between 859 households to 963 households. In comparison to 2021 levels, the DNSSAB saw a year over year decrease of 4.2% from 963 households on the waitlist in 2021 to 923 households in 2022.



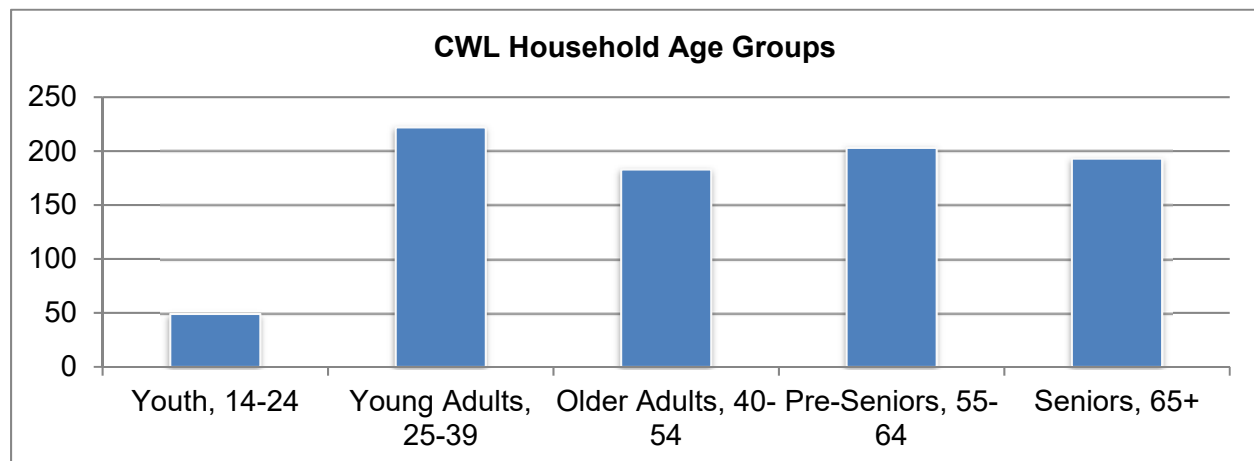
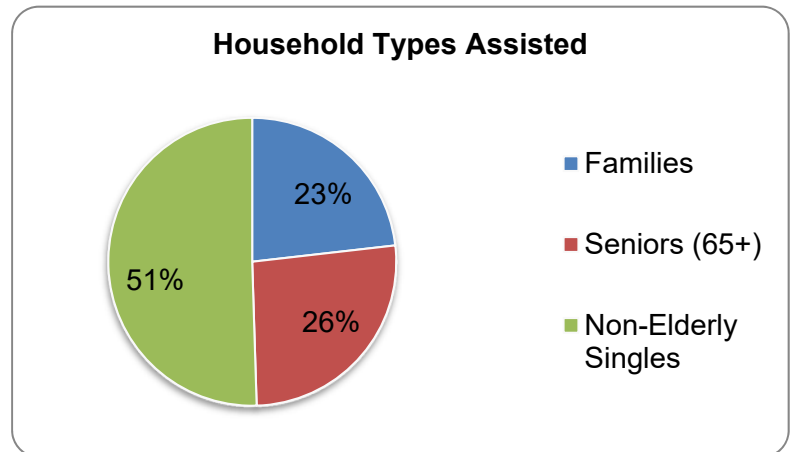
In 2022, 238 new households were added to the CWL while 278 households were removed. Households were removed for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to:

- Secured an RGI unit
- Received a municipally funded subsidy or Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB)
- Failed to provide required documentation
- Requested to be removed
- Ineligible for RGI assistance

Just under a quarter of all new applications approved in 2022 were for Special Priority Status (SPP) for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Survivors of Human Trafficking. The vast majority (75%) of new applications were non-priority (chronological) households while 2% of new applications were Urgent Priority for households that have lost their accommodations as a result of a fire, flood, natural disaster, or condemned by the municipality or the fire department.

In terms of household demographics, the majority of the CWL is composed of non-elderly singles (51%). This reinforces the need for 1-bedroom subsidized units to meet the large demand on the waitlist. Progress has recently been made to meet the demand for singles with the opening of Northern Pines Phase 1, Suswin and the soon to be open Northern Pines Phase 2 and 3. These projects total 90 units for singles.

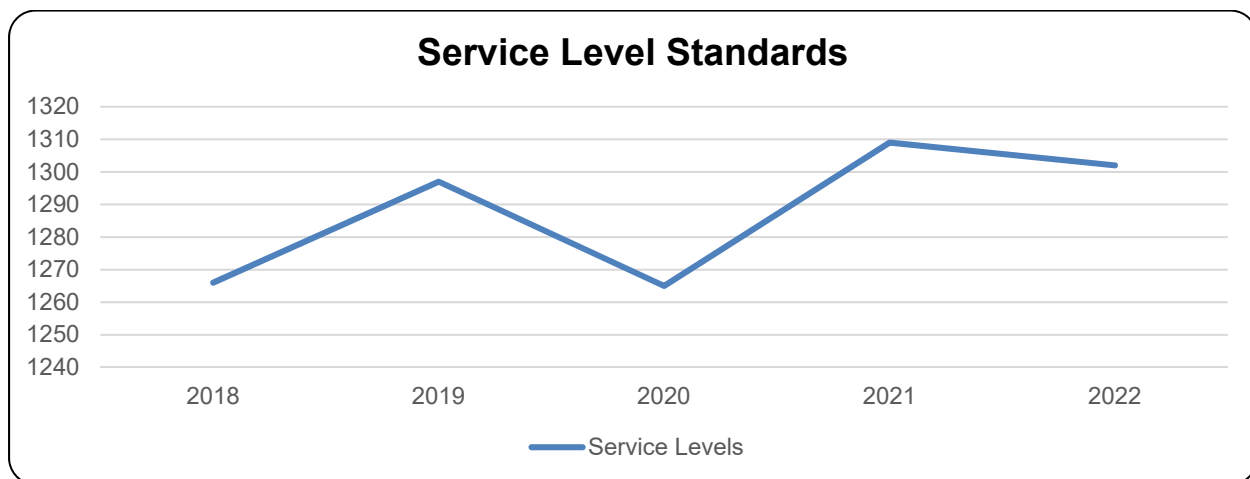
Age groups illustrate that the largest age group on the CWL are young adults (25-39 years old). All age groups remain fairly equally distributed with the exception of the smallest age group of youth (17-24 years old).



### **Service Level Standards**

A snap-shot of Service Levels are reported annually (as of December 31<sup>st</sup>) to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Service Levels are not indicative of an entire year but rather are a point in time figure. Throughout the year, Service Levels fluctuate due to the large number of households receiving RGI assistance in social housing. In 2022, the number of households receiving RGI assistance dropped slightly in comparison to 2021. This is consistent with the slight decrease in the number of high needs households receiving RGI assistance. In 2021, Provincial Reformed Housing Providers assisted 607 households with RGI assistance, however, in 2022 this number decreased to 569 households. This represents a year over year decrease of 6.3%. However, this was offset by an increase in the number of rent subsidies provided (10 additional in 2022) and the addition of 18 Urban Native units obtained through post-end of operating agreements. The net result was a year over year decrease in SLS of 0.5%, or seven units. Under the Housing Services Act, 2011 a household can lose their RGI assistance for a variety of reasons including increased household income, and program non-compliance. Since 2021, the Board has added a total of 72 rental subsidies that contribute towards SLS. Without these investments, overall service levels would increasingly fluctuate on an annual basis due to the unpredictability of social housing service levels.

	Prescribed SLS	2022 SMAIR	2021 SMAIR	Year Over Year Growth	Variance
Households Receiving RGI	1522	1302	1309	-0.5%	220
High Needs Households	807	569	571	-0.4%	238



### **COHB**

The COHB program is jointly delivered by the DNSSAB and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) since 2020. The DNSSAB, as the Service Manager, submits applications while the Province determines eligibility, calculates and issues the benefit. As such, the funding amounts in the table below are planning allocations only; the MOF issues the subsidy payments directly to households.

Since the introduction of COHB in 2020, Nipissing has consistently met and exceeded the number of households for which administration dollars are received, as detailed below. To date, 191 households in Nipissing have been approved for the COHB. For 2023/24, Nipissing's planning allocation for new applications is \$282,200, which will assist up to 65 additional households. Priority will continue to be given to households identified and referred through the Coordinated Access Nipissing process.

Fiscal Year	Allocation	New Funding	Number of Applications Submitted	Number of Applications Approved	Number of Allowable Households for Admin Dollars	Admin Dollars
2020-21	\$195,475.00	N/A	123	56	39	\$9,750.00
2021-22	\$256,130.00	\$60,655.00	41	21	12	\$3,000.00
2022-23	\$317,700.00	\$317,700.00	195	114	63	\$15,750.00
2023-24		\$282,200.00			53-65	\$13,250.00

### **RISK IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION**

Under the *Housing Services Act, 2011* the DNSSAB is required to meet its prescribed SLS. Therefore, it is important to ensure that on an annual basis, the DNSSAB is incrementally increasing the number of RGI households assisted, as outlined in the approved Service Level Standards Action Plan (2022), and, once SLS are met, efforts to sustain the service level will

be key. Furthermore, DNSSAB staff will support Housing Providers that have seen a decrease in the number of RGI households to ensure that they have a target plan to assist them in meeting their RGI targets.

## **CONCLUSION**

In summary, close monitoring of the CWL and service levels will continue in order to ensure that the obligations set out in the *Housing Services Act, 2011* are being met. The CWL continues to remain stagnant in the number of total households awaiting RGI assistance, yet the CWL continues to see a high number of priority applications, which results in longer wait times for households without a priority. Furthermore, there remains a high proportion of non-elderly singles illustrating the need for 1-bedroom and bachelor units in the District. With regards to service levels, the DNSSAB continues efforts to meet its prescribed service levels through municipally and provincially funded subsidies. DNSSAB staff will continue to follow the Service Level Standards Action Plan to ensure that annual SLS increases align with or exceed the plan.