



## Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board

450 Scott Street  
Fort Frances, ON  
P9A 1H2

Ph: (807) 274-5349  
Fax: (807) 274-0678  
Toll Free: 1-800-265-5349

• Children's Services • Land Ambulance • Ontario Works • Social Housing

---

November 20, 2017

Attention: Jason Kabel  
Community Services Manager – Town of Fort Frances  
740 Scott Street  
Fort Frances, ON P9A 1H8

Dear Mr. Kabel,

I am writing to you on behalf of a collective of agencies that service the Rainy River district's most vulnerable population: individuals and families experiencing homelessness, requesting your input to help address emergency shelter issues. A committee dedicated to finding solutions to homelessness in our district has been working toward strengthening social supports as well as looking for immediate and preventative solutions. However, we have a major hurdle to address.

As you may be aware, our district has no emergency shelter, with the exception of the Atikokan Women's Shelter of Hope, which houses female victims of domestic violence. With no safe space for this vulnerable population to sleep, those experiencing homelessness are more likely to be victims of violent crime, develop serious health problems, have untreated mental or physical illnesses and addictions, among others.

In the human services, we know that change is most impactful when community members from all walks of life come together. In order to achieve a positive outcome for those experiencing homelessness, **we are asking you to assist us by providing space at either the East End Hall or the Banquet Room on the second floor of the Memorial Sports Centre to be used at night as temporarily overnight emergency shelter until April 2018.** Contingent on approval, we are requesting consistently the same night(s) every week.

We are also asking churches in our community to assist in this effort by opening up space in their basements and having volunteers provide refreshments and set up this temporary overnight shelter. If you would like to speak, you can reach me at (807) 274-5349 ext. 248 or [jpetrin@rrdssab.on.ca](mailto:jpetrin@rrdssab.on.ca). Thank you for your time and I look forward to collaborating with you.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Petrin'.

Jamie Petrin  
Community Homeless Liaison