

Inspiring Approaches to Community Consultations and Housing the Homeless



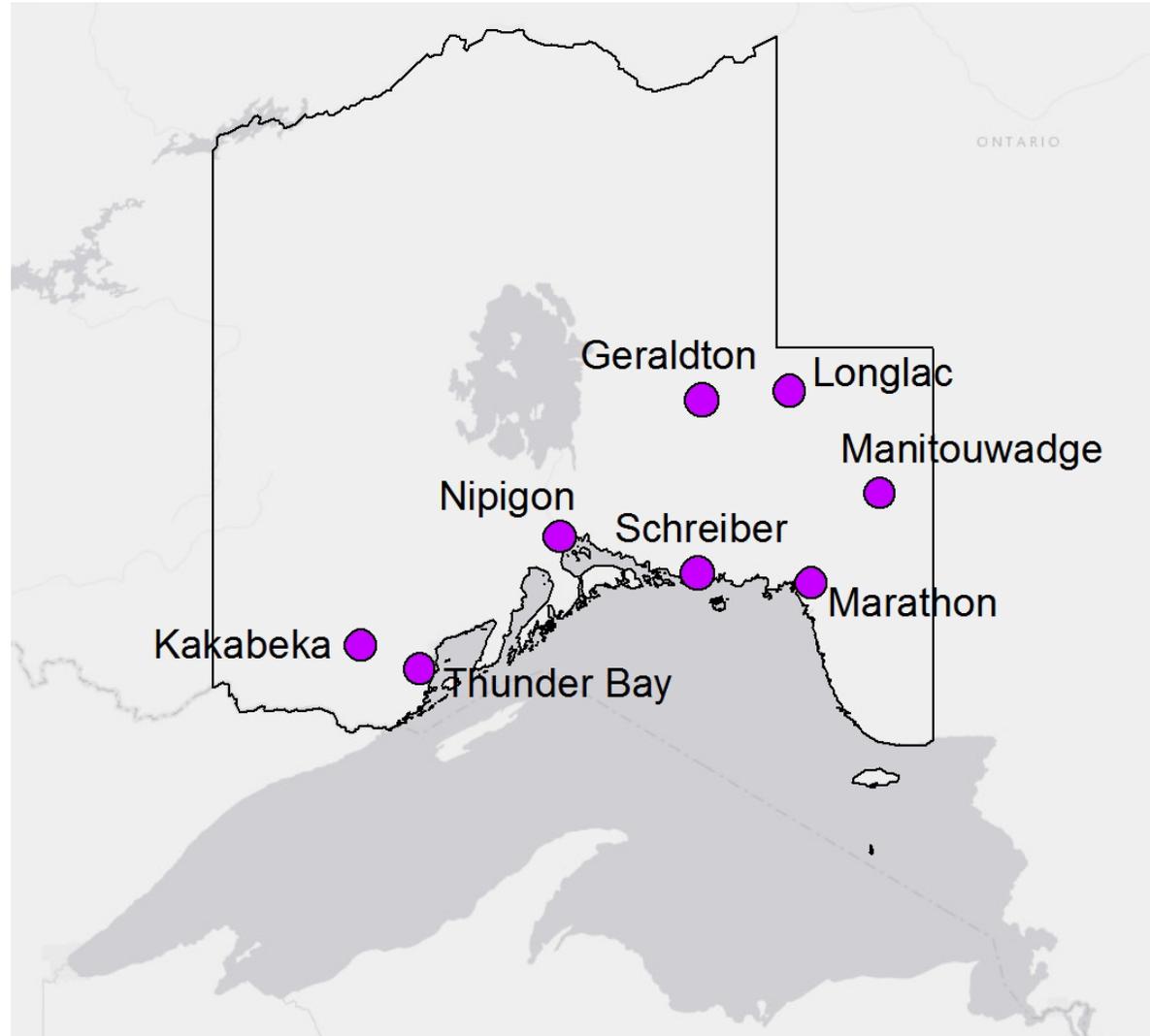
**THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD**

**OMSSA 2018 Policy Conference
December 5, 2018**

**Presented by:
Ken Ranta, Director, Housing Services**



TBDSSAB Service Area and Office Locations



What is the TBDSSAB Responsible for?

- ❖ Financial and employment assistance delivery (Ontario Works)
- ❖ Service Manager for Child Care Programs
- ❖ Service Manager for Social and Affordable Housing
- ❖ Direct operator of Social Housing



Housing Numbers

- ❖ 2,490 social housing units directly operated within the District of Thunder Bay.
- ❖ 929 social housing units owned by 21 non-profit housing corporations receive funding from TBDSSAB.
- ❖ 600+ Rent Supplement units with private and non-profit landlords.
- ❖ As of October 31, 2018 the centralized wait list has 1,044 applicants for rent-gearred-to-income (RGI) for the District.
- ❖ 65% of applicants are non-senior singles.



Housing Services Division Goals and Strategic Outcomes

- ❖ To effectively address the provision of Social and Affordable Housing through Direct-Owned Properties and relationships with Housing Providers.
- ❖ To seek to meet the needs and well-being of tenants.
- ❖ To reduce homelessness and eliminate chronic homelessness.



10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan

Under One Roof:
A Housing and Homelessness Plan

2014-2024



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Community Engagement and Consultation

Reach out broadly to engage stakeholders and seek input in the Plan:

- ❖ Community meetings and presentations
- ❖ Engagement of coalitions and existing committees
- ❖ Public call for input
- ❖ Community needs survey
- ❖ Data collection from existing sources



Inventory of Community Supports

Identify organizations and systems in the community:

- ❖ Emergency Shelters
- ❖ Emergency Housing for Survivors of Domestic Violence
- ❖ Indigenous Housing Providers
- ❖ Full Supportive Housing Providers
- ❖ Long-Term Care Providers
- ❖ Retirement and Seniors' Living
- ❖ Social Housing Providers
- ❖ Co-operative Housing Providers



Housing and Homelessness Plan

- ❖ Long-term vision to determine best options with needs and investment.
- ❖ Develop recommendations for TBDSSAB Board and community.
- ❖ Implement in phases and evaluate



Plan Recommendations

The initial plan proposed 32 recommendations in 6 key areas:

1. Advocacy
2. System Enhancement
3. Sustainability of Existing Housing Stock
4. Supportive Housing Solutions
5. Homelessness
6. Improved Client Service



Recommendations - Update

- ❖ On a bi-annual basis, review status of recommendations and add new as appropriate.
- ❖ In the 2016 update, 5 recommendations were completed and 6 new were added.
- ❖ In the 2018 update, 11 recommendations were completed and 7 new were added (homelessness).
- ❖ Current engagement process for 5-year update.



Recommendation # 2.5

Develop a multi-year plan including funding requirements for the Private Market Rent Supplement Program, Portable Housing Benefit and RGI housing in order to reach Service Level Standards.

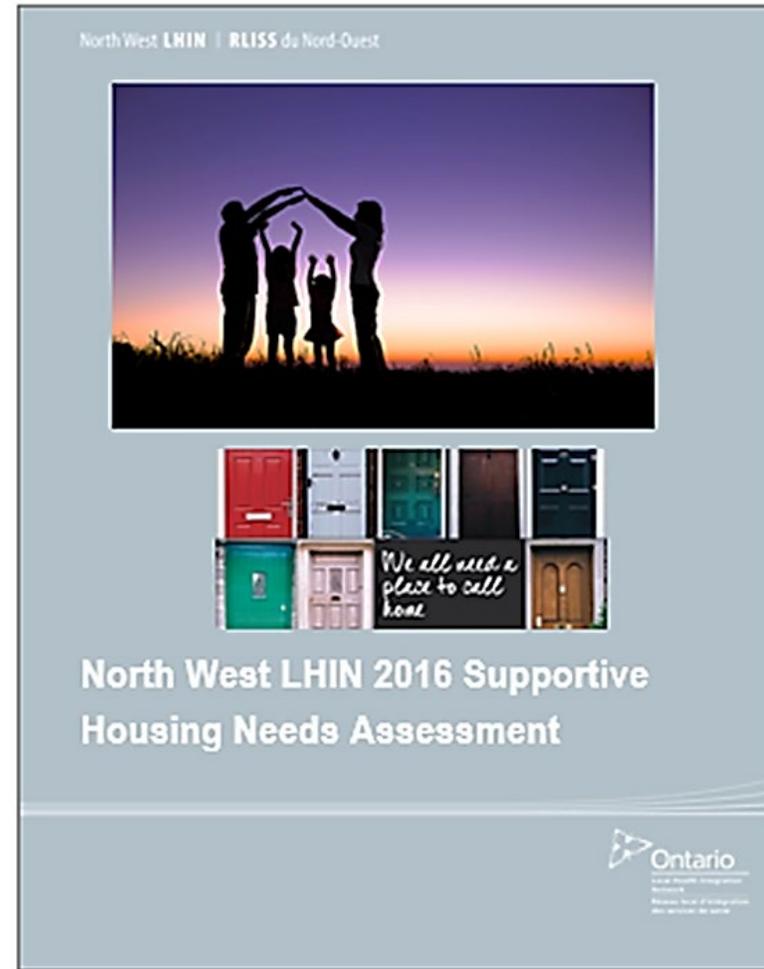
- ❖ Present options to TBDSSAB Board for efficient use of resources
- ❖ Grow investment to facilitate greater housing availability



Recommendation # 4.5

Maintain partnership with the NWLHIN and co-develop a Housing with Supports and Homelessness Needs Assessment.

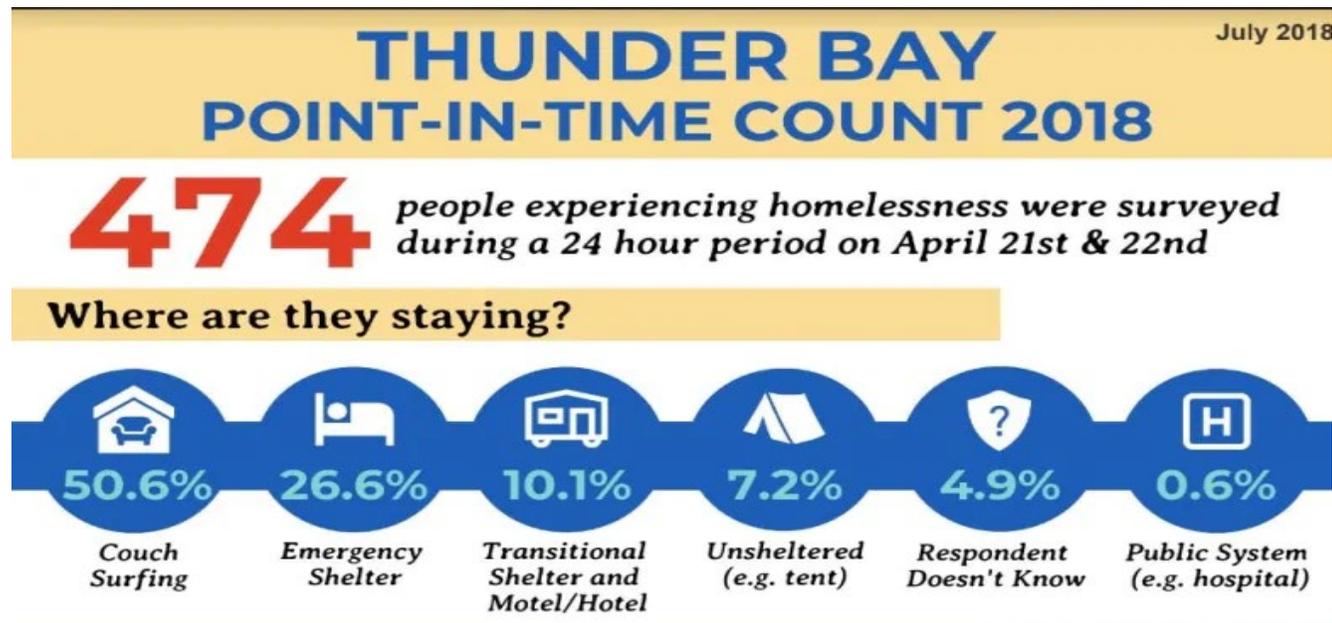
- ❖ Establish Housing and Homelessness Prevention Advisory Committee with NW DSSABs and OAHS
- ❖ Opportunities to link support services with housing



Recommendation # 5.8

Conduct a homelessness count for the District of Thunder Bay.

- ❖ A homeless enumeration was done in April 2018



Recommendation #5.11

Expand the High Needs Homeless/Housing First System.

- ❖ TBDSSAB created the High Needs Homeless (HNH) local rule and implemented use of SPDAT (Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool)
- ❖ Coordinate efforts of Transitional Outreach staff and emergency shelter staff to test for High Needs Homeless category
- ❖ Supports provided through St. Joseph's Care Group and Dilico Anishinabek Family Care to individuals placed through the High Needs Homeless category
- ❖ Place chronically homeless individuals into housing with supports



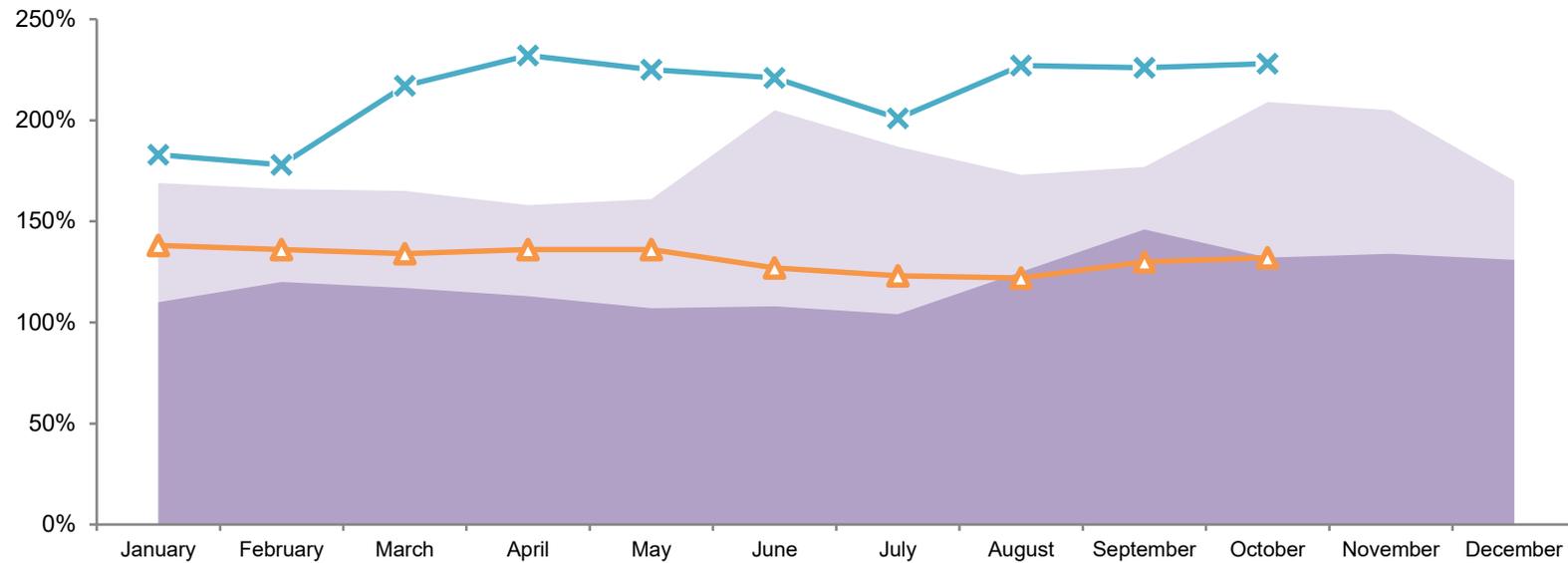
Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT)

- ❖ Used to assess a person's ability to retain and maintain housing without intervention.
- ❖ Identifies people with high needs in order to assist with community supports that can lead to housing.
- ❖ 75 people have been placed in housing with supports to date.



Emergency Shelter Occupancy

YTD Shelter Occupancy



Shelter House 2017 Salvation Army 2017 Shelter House 2018 Salvation Army 2018



Outcomes

Andrew was assessed at one of the homeless shelters and was identified as a HNH priority and was placed in housing with support.

A 6-month post-housed SPDAT was completed with Andrew. He said among the many changes in his life, he noticed a huge decrease in anxiety and a huge increase in sleep quality and in diet/nutrition which has in turn helped him feel more “whole” spiritually, emotionally and physically.

He is actively applying for employment and feels more confident about his resume now that he has an address to list on it.

Andrew has remained successfully housed for over one year.



Community Housing Needs



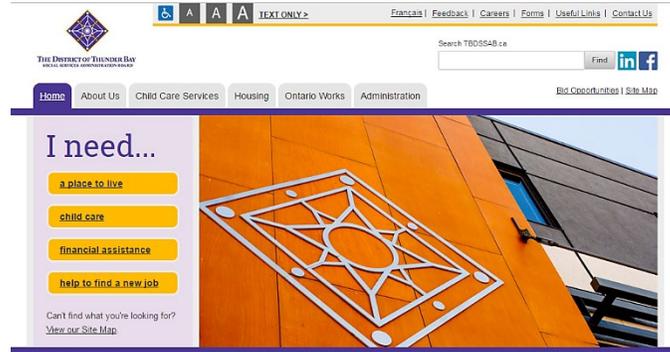
Next Steps

- ❖ Continue work on current recommendations
- ❖ Evaluate programs and current practices
- ❖ New community consultations for 5-year plan update
- ❖ Information sharing
- ❖ Seek new opportunities

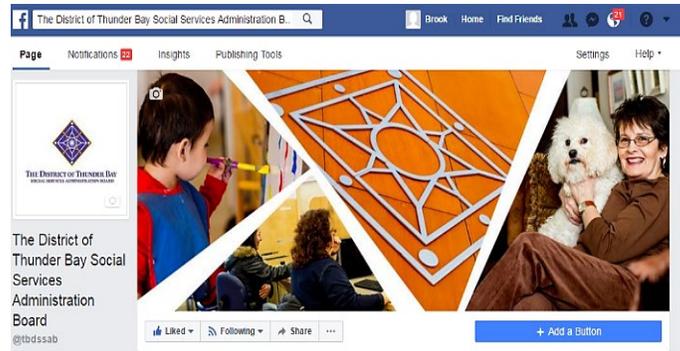


Follow TBDSSAB

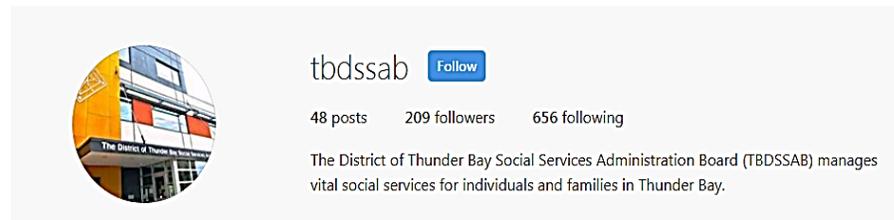
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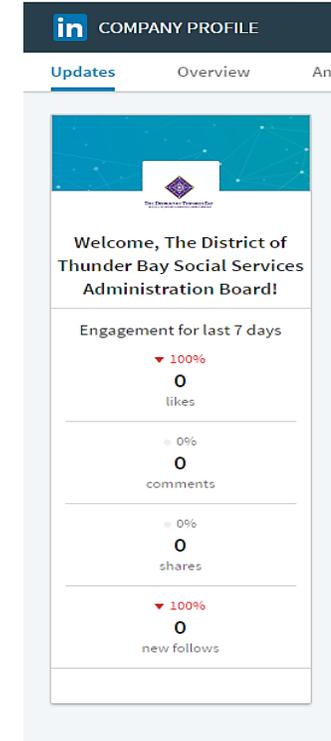
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