



Announcement of Intent to Amalgamate

August 18, 2010

As many of our community partners are aware, there have been discussions regarding the amalgamation of Kenora-Patricia Child and Family Services (KPCFS) and Family and Children's Services of the District of Rainy River (FACS). These discussions were initiated by FACS as a result of funding shortfalls experienced by many children's aid societies in Ontario. A final amalgamation plan was submitted by the Project Leadership Team to the Ministry of Child and Youth Services (MCYS) on June 30th, 2010.

On August 13th, the agencies received notification from the Ministry that the plan to amalgamate had been approved in principle. The two organizations will merge into one new organization effective April 1st, 2011. The vision of the amalgamation is to create a resilient and sustainable children's services agency that is designed to address existing and emerging needs within the region. The total combined budget of \$17 million will cover the provision of child welfare services throughout both districts, as well as children's mental health services in the Rainy River District and various other non child welfare services that both agencies currently provide.

Project teams will be developed to implement the amalgamation plan, and will involve staff from all levels from both agencies, as well as foster parents and community partners. This process will identify the unique strengths of each organization to build one sustainable organization, yet to be named. This organization will operate within existing resources to provide quality services throughout the Kenora-Patricia and Rainy River Districts.

Our community partners should expect no disruption to service, as well as no change to response times and referrals. Although the move to amalgamate was driven initially by cost factors, there will be no reduction in frontline services to clients or frontline staff. Financial efficiencies will be achieved through streamlining administration services.

The Project Leadership Team is committed to regular and on-going communication to all stakeholders. A newsletter is being developed to facilitate communication with our community partners. Please respond to information@facsrr.ca and indicate your preference in receiving the newsletter by regular mail or by electronic mail. If you would like to receive the newsletter by mail, please indicate the contact person(s). If you have any questions or comments, please contact Bill Leonard at 807-467-5437.

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