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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shelter Faces Delays

The Fort Frances Homeless Committee, comprised of front-line service providers of non-profit agencies spanning social services, education, legal and health care sectors, has been working diligently over the past twelve months in efforts to get an Out of the Cold Pop-Up Shelter opened in Fort Frances. Unfortunately, this shelter is experiencing additional delay causing the anticipated start-date to be pushed back further into the winter.

The committee has been working extremely hard to get the shelter opened up in time for winter, but has seen a number of delays varying from policy development, security, building concerns, staffing and training.

Homeless Committee co-chair, Jamie Petrin states, "We are disappointed of course because we wanted to have this shelter open earlier, but we are moving in uncharted territory here in Fort Frances and want to make sure we are doing things right. When it comes to accountability and safety, there are no shortcuts."

The committee is optimistic it will still be able to open its doors shortly, but is looking at a start-date of February at this time. "In talking to other shelters operating similar programs, we have heard that taking up to a few years is not uncommon in opening a shelter, so I am still pleased at what we have been able to accomplish and very proud of the committee for all they have put into it so far," added Petrin.

The Homeless Committee may look at utilizing a different space in order to get a shelter operational quickly. More details will follow in the coming weeks, but those wanting to be kept up to date are encouraged to visit the "Out of the Cold" Facebook page.

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Thank you for providing the opportunity to further address the issue of homelessness in Fort Frances.

For information on the shelter and homeless committee, please contact Jamie Petrin at jpetrin@rrdssab.on.ca or 807-274-5349 x 248.