

October 9, 2025

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Dear Mr. Jensen,

On behalf of the **Cochrane District Services Board (CDSB)**, thank you for the opportunity to provide additional context to support the ongoing impact assessment for the Crawford Nickel Project. Continued collaboration and recognition of the social, health, and economic considerations affecting communities across the Cochrane District is appreciated.

CDSB remains committed to advancing strong public and private partnerships that enhance the region's capacity to respond to development pressures while supporting sustainable, inclusive growth. Many of the concerns identified in your correspondence including housing demand, access to health and mental health services, community safety, and early learning and childcare are being addressed through ongoing and planned initiatives across our jurisdiction.

Housing and Community Development

CDSB, in collaboration with municipal partners, First Nations, and private developers, continues to address regional housing pressures through coordinated planning and investment in key community projects. These efforts focus on increasing housing diversity, affordability, and long-term sustainability.

Current and upcoming projects include:

- **Melrose Subdivision Expansion (City of Timmins):** A major housing expansion designed to increase residential capacity, attract new families and workers, and support economic growth.
- **1800 Riverside Drive, Timmins:** Development of **105 seniors' units**, creating affordable and supportive housing options for older adults and improving the continuum of care locally.
- **Multi-Family Residential Project in Hearst:** A new multi-unit development supporting both workforce and family housing needs.
- **Cadence Seniors Complex Expansion:** Additional senior housing units and supportive infrastructure, promoting aging-in-place across the district.

- **New CDSB Office and Paramedic Station – Kapuskasing:** A combined community hub model providing enhanced access to social, housing, and emergency medical services for residents in the northern corridor of the district.

These projects collectively strengthen community capacity and directly contribute to managing growth linked to industrial and resource development, while reinforcing the district's broader goals of affordability, accessibility, and resilience.

Health, Safety, and Well-being

CDSB continues to work with community partners, Indigenous organizations, and health agencies to improve the social determinants of health and promote community well-being across the region.

Key initiatives include:

- **Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plans:** Each community within the district has developed, or is updating, a CSWB Plan focused on reducing risks, improving access to services, and fostering inclusion. These plans are guided by key **pillars**: *Prevention and Early Intervention, Risk Mitigation, Collaboration and Integration, and Community Empowerment*.
- **System of Care Framework:** CDSB has implemented a comprehensive System of Care model to address homelessness and housing instability across the Cochrane District. This framework integrates service providers, community agencies, and Indigenous partners to deliver coordinated access, prevention strategies, supportive housing, and wraparound services that promote housing stability and long-term well-being.
- **Health and Wellness Partnerships:** CDSB collaborates closely with regional health authorities, mental health service providers, and Indigenous health partners to ensure culturally responsive and trauma-informed care. Emphasis is placed on mental health and addictions supports, substance use prevention, and improving access to local health and wellness resources.

Child Care and CWELCC Growth

Under the **Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC)** framework, CDSB continues to expand licensed child care spaces, strengthen the workforce, and enhance partnerships with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous service providers. These efforts ensure access to affordable, high-quality early learning opportunities that grow in step with local economic development and workforce needs.

Collaborative Planning

CDSB continues to align its strategic priorities with those of local municipalities, First Nations, and provincial and federal partners to ensure that the region's social and physical infrastructure evolves alongside industrial development.



Cochrane District
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The Board's ongoing strategic planning emphasizes collaboration, data-driven decision-making, and coordinated investment ensuring that both economic growth and community well-being are sustained across the district, particularly as communities navigate industrial transitions such as the future closure of Kidd Creek Mine.

CDSB recognizes sustainable development across Northern Ontario depends on strong collaborative frameworks that balance economic opportunity with community well-being. CDSB remains committed to working alongside all levels of government, industry partners, and Indigenous communities to ensure that projects such as Crawford Nickel contribute positively to the region's social and economic resilience.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if further details are required or if a follow-up discussion would be helpful regarding specific program areas.

Thank you.

<Original signed by>

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