

# Local Services Boards: How they work and the services they provide

BY MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, MINES,  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY

## What is a Local Services Board (LSB)?

A Local Services Board is a volunteer organization that has the authority under the Northern Services Boards Act (NSBA) to deliver nine basic services in areas where there is no municipal structure. Each LSB is unique in the services it offers its inhabitants, but these can include water supply, fire protection, garbage collection, sewage, street and area lighting, recreation, public library services and emergency telecommunications. Road maintenance and services are primarily operated by Local Roads Boards established in unincorporated areas under the Local Roads Boards Act. To limit duplication of services, there are no LSBs currently providing this service.

## How LSBs work

Area residents can vote to establish, dissolve or change the geographic area or boundary of an LSB. They can also determine what services they want to be provided in the area and how they will raise funds to deliver these services. Residents vote annually to elect a board. The number of members on each board is specified in Ontario Regulation 737, typically consisting of three to five members from the LSB area. The board can establish rules and procedures for carrying out LSB business. Board members are responsible for communicating operations of the LSB, and managing finances and programs. All LSB meetings are open to the public.

The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF) provides guidance to the LSBs relating to adding or changing services, boundary expansions or dissolutions. It also authorizes the final approval once residents vote in favour of these changes.



Photo courtesy of Ontario Cabinet Office.

LSBs generate revenue to cover the cost of delivering services through a combination of user fees or levies, fundraising efforts, and operating grants from NDMNRF. Some LSBs do not receive NDMNRF funding and must rely on other sources of revenue to provide services. Fire departments of LSBs may be eligible for funding through the Northern Fire Protection Program, administered by the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM). LSBs with infrastructure such as water supply or sewage treatment plants may be eligible for federal/provincial infrastructure funding programs.

## LSBs in Northern Ontario

There are currently 45 LSBs operating in Northern Ontario. Visit [ontario.ca](http://ontario.ca) for the full list.

Four LSBs fall within the Lake of the Woods area:

- **The LSB of Minaki** provides recreation services through the Minaki Community Association, and fire protection through the Minaki United Firefighters. To contact, call 204-797-3547 or email [kellybeauchamp6@gmail.com](mailto:kellybeauchamp6@gmail.com).
- **The LSB of Redditt** provides water supply, fire protection and recreation services. To contact, call 204-654-2024 or email [bobdolyniuk@gmail.com](mailto:bobdolyniuk@gmail.com).
- **The LSB of Pellatt, Pelican, Umbach, Gidley** provides fire protection services and emergency telecommunications for the Townships of Pellatt, Pelican, Umbach and Gidley, in the Territorial District of Kenora. To contact, call 807-464-2942, email [ldsummers61@gmail.com](mailto:ldsummers61@gmail.com) or visit [puffire.com/local-services-board](http://puffire.com/local-services-board).
- **The KeeMan LSB** provides fire protection services within its boundaries. See the LSB boundary map on the Keeman LSB website at [keemanlsb.ca](http://keemanlsb.ca). To contact, call 807-543-1248, email [info@keemanlsb.ca](mailto:info@keemanlsb.ca) or visit [keemanlsb.ca](http://keemanlsb.ca).

Visit [Ontario.ca](http://Ontario.ca) for more information on the Northern Services Boards Act, helpful guides and a full list of LSBs in Northern Ontario. You can also call the ministry at 807-468-2937 or 1-866-711-7034 to speak with a Northern Development Advisor in your area.

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