

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **Keewatin-Patricia District School Board hires Children's Mental Health Leader**

**November 23, 2011**

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board with its partner, Firefly, is extremely pleased to announce the appointment of Lisa Doerksen as the new Children's Mental Health Lead.

The newly created Children's Mental Health Lead position for the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board is part of the Ontario Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions strategy "*Open Minds, Healthy Minds*". With only eight public school boards in Ontario receiving the funding for the position of Children's Mental Health Lead, the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board is well-positioned to further its work in supporting mental health needs in schools.

Doerksen is currently the Director of Children's Mental Health Services for the regional agency, Firefly. As a result, it is felt that her transition from her current role into the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board will be seamless and strengthen an already solid relationship between both parties. Recognized for her work in supporting collaborative partnerships, Doerksen will be overseeing the creation and facilitation of a greater three-year Children's Mental Health Strategy for all Keewatin-Patricia District School Board schools, staff, and stakeholders including families.

When asked about her new role, Ms. Doerksen stated "I am very pleased to be part of the collaborative work that lies ahead. Through coordinating services, identifying levels of need and partnering for in-school delivery of mental health services, our goal will be to develop a regional strategy for student mental health that will support students to succeed in all aspects of their development."

Karen Ingebrigtsen, CEO of Firefly, commented: "Lisa brings a wealth of children's mental health in schools service experience and knowledge to this vital role in supporting students, their families and teachers. With Lisa assuming the Children's Mental Health Lead position, both Firefly and the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board again demonstrate their commitment to quality, service collaboration to best serve our district's students as well as further providing a variety of effective services to support district students and their teachers."

Director of Education, Jack McMaster expressed enthusiasm for the new appointment: “We are extremely pleased to hire Lisa Doerksen for the mental health position. Lisa has had extensive work with students and brings a global mental health perspective to our Board. Lisa will help solidify an already strong partnership with Firefly, and help build capacity within staff in support of students who have mental health issues that interfere with their learning.”

For further information, questions or comments, please contact the Superintendent of Education, Sean Monteith at (807) 468-5571 ext. 229 or [sean.monteith@kpdsb.on.ca](mailto:sean.monteith@kpdsb.on.ca).

Dave Penney  
Chair

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Jack McMaster  
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