



October 2, 2019

## Media Release

### **Important Update from the All Nations Hospital (ANH) Steering Committee**

The Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) will undertake the planning of a new All Nations Hospital facility, under the directives of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) Capital Planning Guidelines, and in alignment with the planning parameters defined in the approved Planning Agreement between the MOHLTC and LWDH. The immediate scope of this project is to complete a Stage 1 Proposal submission and development of the Stage 2 Functional Program for the major hospital redevelopment. It is estimated that the completion of these stages will take two (2) years.

We are at a historic juncture for Indigenous and Canadian relations in the Kenora area with all communities taking positive steps towards true partnership and “Reconciliation through Health”. The Kenora Chiefs Advisory (KCA), Grand Council Treaty #3, the Kenora Métis Council, Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation, the City of Kenora and the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls have all agreed to the following resolution signed and witnessed in ceremony “That all parties agree to work together in partnership in the development of an All Nations Health Care System including the construction of an All Nations Hospital and Campus with the express purpose of improving health outcomes for all people of the region it serves”.

Working towards accessible and culturally safe health care across all sectors/services and for the new All Nations hospital will mean aligning planning within the context of Truth and Reconciliation. This will be one of the first large developments in the Kenora area that will embark on a Reconciliation process and true partnership between all residents of Kenora, surrounding First Nations communities, municipalities and the Indigenous population.

Planning will focus on a facility that will be a central and integral component of an All Nations Healthcare system that will improve health outcomes and improve health care delivery, while achieving standards of excellence for hospital design and operations.

We are pleased to inform you that an extensive process to select a project management firm to oversee the planning process has been completed. Colliers Project Leaders has been selected as the Project Management firm, and they have extensive experience in planning health care projects in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, including experience in community hospital projects they have planned in northern and rural Ontario, and engaging proactively with the MOHLTC’s Health Capital Investment Branch.

The All Nations Hospital Steering Committee is composed of the following:

- Wendy Peterson, LWDH Board Representative who will serve as Chair



- Chief Marilyn Sinclair, Kenora Chiefs Advisory (KCA) Representative who will serve as Vice Chair
- Grand Council Treaty 3 Representative to be appointed by Grand Council Treaty #3
- Liz Boucha, Kenora Metis Council Representative
- Rory McMillan, City of Kenora Representative
- Dr. Jillie Retson, Physician Representative
- Samantha Gould, LWDH Staff representative
- Sally Johnson, Community Representative
- Linda Copenace, Community Representative
- Ray Racette, LWDH Hospital CEO (ex-officio, non-voting)
- Joe Barnes, KCA CEO (ex-officio, non-voting)
- Cheryl O'Flaherty, LWDH VP Corporate Services (project Executive Sponsor) (ex-officio, non-voting)
- Donna Makowsky, LWDH VP Patient Care (ex-officio, non-voting)

There will be regular communication to the community following All Nations Hospital Steering Committee meetings to ensure everyone is kept informed on the progress of this very important project.

Chief Marilyn Sinclair, Vice Chair of the All Nations Hospital Steering Committee, remarked "We are at a historic juncture; through this partnership our collective voice and our health are at the forefront of planning a new All Nations Hospital. With dedicated and ongoing collaboration we will see a facility which is culturally responsive, rooted in traditional healing practices and the best aspects of a modern health care system for ALL."

There will be extensive engagement occurring within the City of Kenora, and the surrounding municipalities and First Nations communities served by the hospital. This community engagement will be taking place during Stage 1 of the project, and will occur within the next 12 months. Please watch for further communications on when public meetings will be occurring. We encourage all of you to please get involved and provide your feedback, which is integral to the success of the All Nations Hospital.

Wendy Peterson, Chair of the All Nations Hospital Steering Committee, remarked "It is exciting to be involved with All Nations working collaboratively in true partnerships, thereby creating a strong foundation for a new hospital for everyone."

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