

Media Release – October 25, 2019

The Kenora-area All Nations Health Partners are one step closer to being one of the first Ontario Health Teams, with their submission on October 9th. Their self-assessment – one of only 31 selected to move forward from 160 submitted – was the only one from northwestern Ontario to proceed to full application, and the only one in the province based on full partnerships with Indigenous agencies and communities.

Co-chair Anita Cameron, who is the Executive Director of Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'yewigamig, said the provincial staff reviewing the submissions have their work cut out for them.

“Our submission was about 100 pages long, with another 100 pages of appendices. I can only imagine reviewing 31 of those. It offers very rich information,” she said. “We look forward to the Health Ministry’s visit to our community on November 8th to review our readiness plans.”

Co-chair Henry Wall, CAO of the Kenora District Services Board, said the Ontario Health Team (“OHT”) process represents a “significant transformation in the delivery of health care,” and stressed that an OHT would not replace the individual organizations currently delivering health care, but enhance integration within various sectors to create efficiencies.

“What we’re talking about is agreements on how we’ll work together in the future to provide seamless services,” he said. “Here, we all know one another. We’re small enough to be relationship-based and large enough to have a level of sophistication that we can draw on from each other.”

Wall describes the All Nations Health Partners (“ANHP”) as a coalition of leaders and providers across the Kenora region, and formed in 2017. The ANHP may have led the local OHT proposal, but, he added, “Health-care groups from across the area will be involved, and the partnership is expected to continue growing. The people in the system – front-line staff, patients and their families – will be a huge part of the process, and extensive community engagement is planned.”

“We want to emphasize the collaborative and collective effort that has gone into this proposal. There are a dozen Indigenous communities and a dozen agencies working together in our partnership,” said Cameron. “The group is working to improve the health system to focus on people first and better serve the unique needs of our northern communities. We are developing a regionally specific, culturally appropriate and responsive health system for all nations.”

“The focus of our first-year work is the addiction, mental health and homelessness crisis,” Cameron added. “The OHT proposal is one step in the journey. The parallel and overlapping initiatives of the All Nations Hospital planning and the All Nations Health System will all contribute to our ultimate goal of seamless, wholistic, people-centred health services for all. Our motto has become Maamowi gaabowititaa – “Let’s stand together”.

All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team

Full Application Candidate



Local First Nations:

Niisaachewan
Naotkamegwanning
Wauzhushk Onigum
Obashaandagaang

Shoal Lake 40
Wabaseemoong
Iskatewizaagegan

Northwest Angle 33
Animakee Wa Zhing 37
Asubpechoseewagong