

All Nations Health Partners – Ontario Health Team – Kenora Region



For Immediate Release
November 1, 2020

Waterview inn secured to offer supports and programming to those who are vulnerable

The Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) has secured a two-year lease agreement with Kenora's Waterview Inn to provide dynamic and faceted support to those who are vulnerable in Kenora.

The KDSB in partnership with the All Nations Health Partners (ANHP) will utilize the 19-unit property as a safe place to be as unique needs arise, such as:

- Seasonal factors like extreme heat or cold.
- COVID-19 isolation.
- Homelessness.
- Need for temporary Supportive Housing.
- Displacement due to the impacts of COVID-19.

“The KDSB has not taken the urgent need for short-term emergency accommodation lightly; the 19 units will directly and immediately support those who do not have a safe place to be. Those who are vulnerable in the community each have unprecedented circumstances, particularly as our region transitions into its colder months. Therefore, we want to ensure that this building will serve as an all-inclusive space to meet a variety of needs,” says Henry Wall, Chief Administrative Officer of the KDSB and Co-Chair of the All Nations Health Partners. He continues, “The KDSB looks forward to working with the All Nations Health Partners to develop a comprehensive menu of supports that will assist those who are vulnerable in staying safe and getting back on their feet. The KDSB would also like to extend a sincere thank you to Colten Chia and Morris Chia for their diligent work with the KDSB to help address a serious and complex community challenge.”

“We have to make sure to place emphasis on creating solutions, both short and long term for our vulnerable populations. By creating access to these short-term emergency accommodations, gaps in service that are badly needed will begin to be addressed”, said Joe Barnes, Executive Director for the Kenora Chiefs Advisory and Co-Chair of the All Nations Health Partners. He adds, “This space will serve to meet the needs of those in the community who need it the most and will address multiple issues, especially as we navigate the difficulties of having sufficient isolation spaces through COVID-19. I entrust that the All Nations Health Partners will come up with an all-encompassing wholesome design for this new space.”

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Together in the coming weeks, the KDSB and ANHP will ensure the right services and programs, including staffing, are implemented to adequately meet the needs of those who will access the Waterview Inn and its supports.

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