

Norway House Cree Nation Health Centre of Excellence

The Norway House Cree Nation Health Centre of Excellence will be a fully integrated healthcare facility that will provide community based programs and services to the 8000 residents of Norway House Cree Nation, Manitoba and the surrounding region.

This project is extremely unique in that it will bring all federally funded, provincially funded and Cree Nation owned and operated health programs and services in to a single state of the art facility and will eliminate the jurisdictional barriers and funding disparities that often impact the level of service delivery and health outcomes in First Nations communities across the country.

The driving force behind this ambitious project is the community of Norway House Cree Nation. Through political stability, under the leadership of Chief Ron Evans, and sound governance practices and processes, which today represent a critical benchmark in determining an organizations success and management stability, Norway House Cree Nation is well positioned to undertake an initiative of this magnitude. This is further strengthened by the fact that over 150 Norway House Cree Nation community members also work as health professionals and frontline works and have been intimately involved in the planning and design of the new Health Centre, based on the current and future needs of the community.

Furthermore, the University of Manitoba, and Ongomiizwin – Health Services, through the vision, dedication and leadership of Dr. Adrienne Morrow, Chief of Staff and Primary Care Physician in Norway House, a strong foundation has been established, consisting of several highly qualified physicians, specialists and medical residents who continue to strengthen community based health programs and services. Dr. Adrienne Morrow and her colleagues have played a vital role, through true partnership and collaboration with Norway House Cree Nation and strive each day to provide the same level of care to all patients in Norway House that any Manitoban anywhere else in the Province would receive; despite the infrastructure challenges that persist at Norway House Indian Hospital, currently the oldest Federally owned/operated health facility in the entire country.

Through a very respectful and collaborative process, Norway House Cree Nation has been working closely with the Government of Canada to address the health infrastructure challenges in Norway House. Furthermore, we have engaged the Government of Manitoba and other key stakeholders to ensure all programs are 'right funded' on a go forward basis to ensure success and sustainability and as a community, Norway House Cree Nation continues to do its part as well, by leveraging economic development and own source revenue opportunities that will further strengthen this initiative.

Winnipeg based LM Architectural Group has also been a key stakeholder thus far and is working closely with Norway House Cree Nation to advance this project. In collaboration with Norway House Cree Nation, the LM Architectural Group team has the expertise to fully manage, plan and design a facility of this magnitude and they have been instrumental in ensuring we remain on schedule and on budget throughout the planning stages of this project. Extensive planning has occurred over the last 20 months and the Cree Nation remains hopeful that construction on this \$100M project, consisting of a Health Centre, Professional Accommodations, a Sweat Lodge and a Maintenance Garage remains on schedule, with construction set to begin in the spring/summer of 2018.

Health Centre of Excellence Guiding Principles

The guiding principles of the Norway House Cree Nation Health Centre of Excellence strive to provide a full complement of community-based services that integrate and facilitate health and wellness from birth through to end of life.

The Health Centre of Excellence will:

1. Provide health services to individuals within their community support network, comprised of family and friends,
2. Create a place that welcomes and strengthens a sense of community as we seek healing,
3. Reflect the natural environment of the Norway House community and its relationship to the watercourses and land,
4. Through service delivery, facilitate individuals and family members to attain and maintain an optimal level of physical, emotional, social, mental and spiritual health lifestyle practices,
5. Reflect the coming together of both western and traditional medicines, so that all those who provide and receive care feel welcome,
6. Continue to enhance teaching and learning opportunities for both health care providers and community members. It will also provide an opportunity for care to adapt to the evolving needs of the community and to medical and technological advancements,
7. Continue to support the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders involved in the delivery of services,
8. Create a safe environment that ensures confidentiality and is mindful of everyone's physical, intellectual, spiritual and emotional being, and
9. Be planned and operated in a manner that will ensure the sustainability of all programs and services.

The new NHCN Health Centre of Excellence will help foster the Cree Nations vision of a healthy community, with enhanced community based programs and services and new economic opportunities for its member, while maintaining a strong spiritual connection to its heritage, land, culture and people. The community vision continues to advance this project forward and will remain integral in the development of the new Norway House Cree Nation Health Centre of Excellence.