

LWDH is responding to the Calls to Action focused on health

To address the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) made 94 Calls to Action, some of which focused on health (#'s 18-24 and 55). Lake of the Woods District Hospital is responding to these calls to action, read on to learn about what is happening in our hospital:

Building strong partnerships with Indigenous communities, health practitioners, and leaders to provide enhanced services

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE AT LWDH in 2023?

Working in partnership with KCA to build an Indigenous Patient Relations Department (IPRD) now and in the new hospital. IPRD staffing within the hospital currently includes:

- Two Patient Navigators
- Indigenous Patient Support Services Manager
- Cultural Services Manager
- ED Social Worker / Mental Health Therapist (18)

Striving to have a hospital board of directors which represents the communities served. (23)

Working with KCA and Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig (WNHAC) to implement solutions in current hospital operations via the Current Operations Innovation Working Group. (22)

Partnering with Ogimaawabiitong Kenora Chiefs Advisory (KCA) to plan a new state-of-the-art, inclusive healthcare facility to replace the current hospital. (21 & 22)

Welcoming Indigenous culture and traditional healing practices throughout the hospital

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE AT LWDH in 2023?

Traditional teachings, learning activities and ceremonies offered on site for staff through the cultural services program. (20)

LWDH's Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC), made up of community members and staff from the hospital, KCA and WNHAC functions as a consistent discussion forum, considering how hospital programs and services can be provided in a holistic, culturally appropriate manner. A secondary function of the IAC is allowing members an in-depth opportunity to learn about the hospital and to share that knowledge within their community. (20)

Reviewing the current patient feedback process in order to create a more easily accessible and inclusive process. (19)

Establishing a process to allow patients to self-identify as Indigenous so that hospital staff can assist in connecting with all possible supports. (19)

Recognizing the importance of, and the difference between National Indigenous Peoples Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Special ad-hoc committees driven by the IPRD team work on communications, education, feasting and other aspects of these days. (18)

New hospital plans that include traditional healing spaces such as a Ceremonial Room, Indigenous Resource Centre, traditional kitchen and external spaces such as Sweat Lodge and landscaped spaces (to allow for gatherings, fire, traditional garden, access to water, etc). All proposed inclusions in the new hospital were drafted in deep consultation with communities. (22)

Translating public communications into Ojibway. (20)

Patients, their families and staff are welcome to smudge / perform traditional practices in the hospital. Smudging is available in the Ojibwa Healing Room, a space that was opened in a ceremony led by local Elders. (20 & 55)

Working with partners to stock traditional medicines such as sage in the hospital. (22)

Learners at LWDH have access to high-fidelity patient simulators which represent the patient population served. (20)

An introduction to Indigenous cultural safety training which is mandatory for all staff at time of orientation. Further to this, LWDH has partnered with KCA to offer San'Yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training. To-date, 57 staff have participated in this training. LWDH has also participated in engagement sessions coordinated by KCA as they develop a cultural safety program specifically for our region to address racism and discrimination in the healthcare system. Once complete, this new program will provide in-depth and consistent cultural awareness and safety training for the LWDH team. (22 & 23)

And the work continues! Lake of the Woods District Hospital will continue to work in partnership to improve health outcomes in our region and foster an inclusive, welcoming place of healing.