



LAKE OF THE WOODS DISTRICT HOSPITAL

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Media Release

Lake of the Woods District Hospital

Ministry Announces Planning Funding for Kenora Hospital

The Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) is delighted to announce that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) is providing \$2.5 million in capital funding to assist the hospital with covering the cost for early capital planning to redevelop / replace the hospital.

This funding will help the hospital, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Capital Planning Guidelines, to complete the early stages of planning for an All Nations Hospital within an All Nations Health System for the Kenora area.

Hospital Board Chair, Joan Reid, indicated that “this funding announcement for planning to replace our hospital has been in the works for many years and I want to thank all of you who have supported and advocated for this project. Our community needs to plan for new hospital facilities within a coordinated and integrated health system to deliver care over the next 50 plus years”.

The hospital has submitted two separate capital requests to the MOHLTC to replace the aging and obsolete hospital buildings. Cindy Gasparini, Vice President of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer, stated: “the hospital has six additions to the original 1929 building and was designed to deliver hospital care dating back to the 1950’s and 60’s. Much has changed in delivering health care with more reliance on specialized medical equipment and shorter hospital stays”. A significant number of people are now seen as outpatients in various specialist clinics, and diagnostic equipment for medical imaging and laboratory testing is critical for early diagnosis and treatment. The current hospital does not have space to accommodate newer medical imaging technology, like MRI scanning, and the current location makes additions to the aging building unlikely.

Mark Balcaen, President and CEO, commented that “we are pleased that the Ministry has recognized the need to plan for an All Nations Hospital within an All Nations Health System. We will work with Grand Council Treaty Three, City of Kenora, Town of Sioux Narrows, Kenora Chiefs Advisory, North West LHIN, our provincial and federal government representatives, local physicians, our staff, and health care partners in creating a new Kenora district hospital and health system”.

The LWDH Board has a Building a Future Committee that will be developing a work plan in conjunction with our partners and the NW LHIN to move forward with the capital planning process. The hospital will be providing the public with regular updates as the process moves forward.

For Further information contact:

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