



LWDH is responding to the TRC's 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 2025?

Working in partnership with partners to have a strong Indigenous Patient Relations Department (IPRD) in our current hospital and in the new hospital. The IPRD includes a robust cultural program and current staffing compliment consisting of:

- Three Patient Navigators
- Anti Racism Cultural Safety Trainer
- Transitions Facilitator
- Manager (Call to Action #18)

Strategic investments made (in laboratory infrastructure, diagnostic imaging - including MRI, orthotics and sports medicine) prioritize care closer to home for our region. With these services now available in Kenora, there is potential for earlier intervention, earlier diagnosis, improved treatment pathways, better outcomes and ultimately increased trust in the healthcare system.

Partnering to plan a new state-of-the-art, inclusive healthcare facility to replace the current hospital. (Call to Action #21 and #22)

Collaborative work with the All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team to create and launch an innovative new rural generalist physician compensation model that is specific to our unique needs. Launched in April 2025, the model directly supports Call to Action #19 which urges closing the gap in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. This transformative step toward equitable, community-based care is about more than compensation—it's about redefining access. By embedding care within communities and supporting practitioners who choose to serve there, together we are:

- Reducing geographic and systemic barriers to care
- Improving health outcomes through timely diagnosis and treatment
- Building sustainable healthcare capacity in Indigenous and rural communities

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

Welcoming Indigenous culture, language, and traditional healing practices throughout the hospital

What does this look like at LWDH in 2025?

Traditional teachings, learning activities and ceremonies offered on site for staff through the IPRD cultural services program. (Call to Action #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 wholistic, 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. (Call to Action #20)

Patients who wish to do so can self-identify as Indigenous to be connected with all possible supports. (Call to Action #19)

New hospital plans drafted in deep consultation with communities 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). (Call to Action #22)

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

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. (Call to Action #20 and #55)

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

Onsite Ojibway translation available through the IPRD team. (Call to Action #20)

Staff education:

- Day-to-day support for all staff via the IPRD team who offer culturally informed guidance and support to hospital staff as they provide care in ways that honor Indigenous perspectives and promote respectful, holistic healing.
- Online introduction to Indigenous cultural safety at time of hire
- Cultural teaching videos developed specifically for LWDH staff by local knowledge keepers.
- In-person Anti Racism and Cultural Safety 4-module training program developed by KCA specifically for those working in healthcare with the goal of having all staff participate in this meaningful opportunity by 2027. (Call to Action #23)

And the work will continue! Your hospital is committed to work in partnership to improve health outcomes in our region and foster an inclusive, welcoming place of healing.