



ALL NATIONS
HEALTH PARTNERS
ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team Welcomes Provincial Funding to Strengthen Rural Primary Care Delivery

April 30, 2026, Kenora, ON — In an evolutionary step forward for Indigenous-led and rural health care transformation, leaders from across the Kenora region gathered today alongside the Honorable Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development and Minister of Indigenous Affairs, as he affirmed the province’s commitment of \$29 million in funding over three years, supporting the implementation of the Rural Generalist Council Care model (RGCC).

This innovative model for primary care delivery, co-developed and implemented by the Kenora Chiefs Advisory Ogimaawabiiitong, Lake of the Woods District Hospital, Sunset Country Family Health Team and Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe’iyewigamig Health Access Centre, lays the groundwork for a regionally driven, culturally grounded model of health care delivery. Originally initiated through the work of ANHP local physicians, the RGCC model will reshape how care is delivered in remote, northern, and the ten First Nation communities included in the model, by building a health system that is team-based, locally led, equity focused and responsive to community needs.

The RGCC model is the result of years of collaboration and dedication,” said Chief Chris Skead of Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation, Acting Board President for Kenora Chiefs Advisory. “I’d like to acknowledge our late Board President, former Chief Lorraine Cobiness, for her dedication to improving the care for First Nation community members, through her active participation as part of the negotiations team. This model represents a shared commitment by all service provider organizations and the hospital to culturally safe, community-led health care that acknowledges and addresses the disparities faced by Anishinaabe peoples in the region.”

What is the Rural Generalist Care Model?

The Rural Generalist Care Model is a community-driven response to long-standing health inequities affecting Indigenous and rural communities. It is designed to ensure that people

across Northwestern Ontario — whether in urban communities or First Nations — have reliable access to a full continuum of care.

Key features of the model include:

- **Team-based care** that integrates primary and emergency care, working collaboratively with inpatient services.
- **Culturally safe, community-led governance** that prioritizes and values Indigenous traditional healing, care planning and delivery.
- **Flexible remuneration models** and streamlined administration to support rural medical practice.
- **Recruitment and retention strategies** for generalist physicians who can work across service areas.

The RGCC fosters collaboration among health providers and governments, while placing decision-making power closer to the communities they serve.

“This is more than a healthcare model; it’s a movement,” said Dr. Jillie Retson, member of the ANHP Physician Advisory Council. “The RGCC model reflects a shared commitment to equity and innovation, ensuring that every resident in the ANHP OHT region can access care that is culturally safe, timely, and effective.”

Cheryl O’Flaherty, President and CEO of Lake of the Woods District Hospital, added, “This model will enhance patients’ access to primary and emergency care. The model will support physicians by streamlining administrative processes and fostering a more sustainable work environment. It’s a win-win for patients and physicians alike.”

The ANHP OHT acknowledges the Ministry of Health, Ontario Health, and the Ontario Medical Association for their partnership and unwavering commitment in co-developing the Rural Generalist Care model and finalizing this agreement. This partnership reflects a shared vision for equitable, community-governed health care across the ANHP OHT northwestern region of Ontario.

About the All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team (ANHP OHT):

The All Nations Health Partners, created in ceremony in 2017, includes Indigenous, municipal and health care leaders, working towards implementing a new model of organizing and delivering health care that better connects patients and providers in their communities to improve patient outcomes. In 2019, the ANHP became one of the first Ontario Health Teams (OHTs), as well as the first from the North, the smallest, and the

only team with full Indigenous and community partners.

Media Contact:

Stacey Socholotuk
Rural Generalist Council Coordinator
All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team
rgcc@anhp.net
www.anhp.net