

## All Nations Health Partners – Ontario Health Team – Kenora Region



District of Kenora Unincorporated Ratepayers Association



Township of Sioux Narrows / Nestor Falls



**For Immediate Release**

**May 1, 2020**

### **COVID-19 Isolation Centre ready to operate**

The All Nations Health Partners is a diverse coalition of municipal, Indigenous and health system leaders who have combined forces to support and prepare our communities for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Part of our COVID-19 pandemic plan has included the development of a COVID-19 Isolation Centre to serve the vulnerable population in Kenora. The COVID-19 Isolation Centre is located in the Keewatin Memorial Arena and will serve as the primary isolation location for the vulnerable homeless people of Kenora. The purpose of the Isolation Centre is to stop or slow down the transmission of COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness. This Center will provide a place of isolation while waiting for test results. It is also designed for those same individuals who are COVID positive that are either asymptomatic or experiencing very minor symptoms.

We are very pleased to announce that the COVID-19 Isolation Centre is now ready to operate. The services for clients will be provided by a diverse team of partners who have come together and worked tirelessly over the last few weeks to design the space solution and services to be offered. The planning and service partners include the Canadian Mental Health Association - Kenora, Changes Recovery Homes, City of Kenora, Dr. Jonny Grek, Firefly, Grand Council Treaty 3, Kenora Association for Community Living, Kenora Chiefs Advisory, Kenora District Services Board, Kenora Fellowship Centre, Kenora Métis Council, Lake of the Woods District Hospital, Ne-Chee Friendship Centre, Northwestern Health Unit, the Ontario Provincial Police and WNHAC.

The main access points for entering the COVID-19 Isolation Center will be referrals through the Kenora Shelter, the Fellowship Center, Morningstar Center, Mobile Outreach and the Lake of the Woods District Hospital Emergency Department. Pathways have been developed to ensure timely access to this service as well as discharge when the Isolation Centre support is no longer needed.

All renovations and modifications to the Keewatin Arena are temporary and the COVID-19 Isolation Centre will close once the COVID-19 pandemic response is completed.

The All Nations Health Partners thanks all of the partners and individuals who have worked so diligently to plan this important support for our vulnerable community. Now it

becomes a reality for when it will be most needed. We also thank the many volunteers, citizens, donors and businesses for their support and encouragement.

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