



**Lake of the Woods
District Hospital**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Fluoroscopy and Echocardiography spaces officially open in Kenora

Kenora, ON, February 11, 2023 – Today marks an important milestone for the Diagnostic Imaging Department at Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) with a Grand Opening taking place to celebrate a new Fluoroscopy Suite and Echocardiography / Biopsy Room.

In August 2021, LWDH's Fluoroscopy Suite was decommissioned as it was fully obsolete and no longer met standards. Additionally, we lacked a dedicated space and Echo technologist to adequately serve and manage the volume of patients requiring Echocardiography. The loss of both these services meant patients had to travel to Winnipeg and Thunder Bay to access procedures, which inevitably meant longer wait times and added patient stress. Until now.

Ray Racette, LWDH President & CEO shares "We are extremely proud of both projects. In a very short time frame, careful planning took place on new equipment selection and purchasing, designing a space solution for the equipment selected, raising the required funding, completing renovations, getting the fluoroscopy room approved for use by the Ministry of Health, certifying the equipment for use, and training and certifying staff." When a project of this complexity takes place, it requires a coordinated effort across the hospital for success to occur. Ray continues "A project of this magnitude takes the collaborative efforts and vision of many groups. I would like to acknowledge the work of our professional and dedicated teams in Diagnostic Imaging, Maintenance, Finance, Administration, Purchasing and Environmental Services. I would also like to thank the Hospital Foundation and the province for funding these essential patient care projects."

Echocardiography provides visualization of how the heart is functioning and performing. Fluoroscopy is imaging equipment which allows real-time 3-D visualization of body structures. During fluoroscopy, x-ray beams are continually emitted and captured on a screen, producing a real-time, dynamic image. This allows for a dynamic assessment of anatomy and function. The new LWDH Fluoroscopy Suite offers dual purposes: fluoroscopy and x-ray capabilities, unlike the older unit which was solely fluoroscopy. Given these capabilities, this unit will be utilized 24/7 by Diagnostic Imaging. Additionally, the new machine has pediatric settings, meaning pediatric patients will be able to receive treatments in Kenora rather than having to travel to a children's hospital. It also supports swallowing studies which are of particular importance for speech language pathology assessments, and for determining why patients are experiencing difficulties swallowing.

Medical equipment is extremely expensive. The cost of these two projects equated to a nearly one-million dollar investment into our hospital. Mira Trebilcock, Executive Director with Lake of the Woods District Hospital Foundation shares, “The recent Diagnostic Imaging equipment purchases were made possible through the generosity of our community. Nearly \$500,000 in proceeds from the online monthly 50/50 raffle, individual donations and the annual Lifesaver Dinner & Auction helped to fund new technologies that directly enhance patient care and keep exceptional care close to home. We are extremely fortunate to have the unwavering and generous support of our community to help transform and shape LWDH as we know it today.”

“Expanding medical offerings at the Lake of the Woods District Hospital will result in improved health outcomes for patients across the Northwest,” said Greg Rickford, Member of Provincial Parliament for Kenora Rainy-River. “I would like to acknowledge the incredible generosity of the community as well as the dedicated team at LWDH who continue to provide a high standard of patient care for Northerners.”

LWDH Diagnostic Imaging facts:

- Kenora is the only site in our region outside of Thunder Bay to offer Fluoroscopy.
- The LWDH Diagnostic Imaging Department is an extremely busy place! It sees approximately 120 people per day.
- There are eight services offered by LWDH Diagnostic Imaging – Fluoroscopy, Echocardiography, ECG, Biopsy, General X-Ray, Bone Mineral Density, Mammography, CT and Ultrasound, and special procedures.
- The LWDH Diagnostic Imaging team consists of 20 incredible team members! (x-ray techs, support, manager, and radiologist & service lead Dr. Catherine Murray)

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