

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LWDH advances solutions to support surgical care following flood, restoration efforts continue

Kenora, ON, June 19, 2026 – Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) remains committed to ensuring patients receive timely, safe surgical care close to home. Following the loss of a significant portion of the hospital building due to the May flood event, several solutions have been implemented to support the continued delivery of surgical services, including:

- Patients with urgent and emergent cases have been referred to surgical providers in Manitoba to support timely access to care.
- A Temporary Non-Standard Operating Room has been established at LWDH. This space is equipped to safely accommodate minor procedures, including infectious and endoscopic procedures, as well as others that do not require full sedation or general anesthesia. Since opening at the beginning of this month, 41 cases have been successfully completed in this space.
- Where regional capacity allows, LWDH surgical teams, including surgeons, anesthesia providers, and nursing staff, are collaborating with regional hospital teams to perform select procedures for LWDH patients in operating rooms in the region. This will continue until an Interim Surgical Services Unit is operational at LWDH, with bookings currently extending through the end of August. To date, 42 procedures have been completed through these partnerships since early June, with pre-operative care continuing to take place at LWDH. Patients who are clinically appropriate and willing to travel are being offered this option.
- Restoration of LWDH's flood damaged Surgical Services unit is progressing at full pace. Much appreciation is extended to the restoration company allocating a significant team to support this work. In parallel, planning continues to advance an Interim Surgical Services Unit within the hospital, with all viable options actively being explored.
- The planned expansion of upper extremity surgical services at LWDH has been delayed due to flood impacts. Surgical Services staff supporting procedures at regional hospitals are gaining valuable experience and training, while working alongside orthopedic specialists to ensure strong clinical readiness for when the program launches.

“We are incredibly grateful to our regional partners and to our own teams for their collaboration, flexibility, and unwavering commitment to patient care,” said Cheryl O’Flaherty, President & CEO, Lake of the Woods District Hospital. “Despite the challenges following the flood, our focus remains on ensuring patients continue to receive safe, timely surgical care, as close to home as possible.”

Media Contact:

Charlene Kissick, Senior Communications Specialist

807-464-1941

ckissick@lwdh.on.ca

www.lwdh.on.ca