

LWDH is responding to the Calls to Action focused on health

The work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the 94 Calls to Action are very important for our nation to understand and respond to. LWDH views recommendations 18-24 and 55, which speak specifically to health, as a guide to our future. The LWDH team is committed to taking steps toward truth and reconciliation in health by:

Focusing on strong partnerships with Indigenous communities, health practitioners and leaders to provide enhanced services

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE AT LWDH in 2022?

Planning a new state-of-the-art, inclusive healthcare facility to replace the current hospital with Kenora Chiefs Advisory Ogimaawabiitong (KCA).

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

Agreements with KCA and WNHAC for staffing within the hospital (Indigenous Patient Navigators, Community Project Planner, Manager for Indigenous Patient Support Services, Transitions Facilitator).

Working in partnership with KCA in the development of a robust Indigenous Patient Support Services Department as part of the All Nations Hospital Project.

Prioritizing the startup of a new Indigenous Advisory Council. The Terms of Reference for this collaborative was developed by LWDH, KCA and WNHAC. The Council will have representation from these three partners, as well as community representatives and will provide guidance on the development of policies and processes that address First Nations Care issues.

Striving to have a board of directors which is representative of the communities served.

Incorporating Indigenous healing practices alongside western medicine as a key theme in the new hospital project planning

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE AT LWDH in 2022?

Commitment to ongoing community engagement throughout the new hospital planning and in relation to current operations.

Working with KCA and WNHAC on a review of the current patient feedback process with the intent of creating an easily accessible and inclusive process.

Implementing a process to allow patients to self-identify if they are Indigenous so that connections can be made with all possible supports.

Working with partners to stock traditional medicines such as sage in the hospital.

Plans for the new hospital include on-unit traditional healing spaces throughout the hospital, 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). All proposed inclusions in the new hospital were drafted in deep consultation with our communities.

Ensuring patients have the ability to smudge / perform traditional practices in the hospital. There is currently one space (Ojibwa Healing Room) in our hospital with ventilation that allows for smudging. This space was opened in a ceremony led by local Elders.

Cultural awareness training for all staff at time of orientation and further development of this training.

Providing a letter of support for the Cultural Competency in Kenora/Treaty 3 Proposal submitted by KCA to Health Canada for their Addressing Racism and Discrimination in Canada's Health Systems Program.

Recognizing the importance of, and the difference between National Indigenous Peoples Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Ad-hoc committees work on communications, feasting and other aspects of these days.