

Ontario Supporting New Mental Health and Addictions Wellness Centre in Fort Frances

Province Improving Access to Health Care for Indigenous People

NEWS

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Ontario is increasing access to mental health and addictions services for First Nations communities in Northwestern Ontario with a new mental health and addictions wellness centre in Fort Frances, to help more people access the care they need closer to home.

In partnership with the federal government, the province is investing in a new program called Mino Ayaa Ta Win (Helping Ourselves Heal) that will be run by Fort Frances Tribal Area Health Services and will serve people in 10 surrounding First Nations communities. The program will reduce the need for people in Fort Frances and the Rainy River District to travel in order to receive culturally appropriate treatment and medically supervised detox services.

The program will be delivered at a newly renovated facility in Fort Frances that will provide:

- Holistic adult mental health counseling, substance use disorder services and treatment, and cultural and community support services
- Onsite mental health and addictions counsellors who will monitor, supervise and counsel up to 195 people per year
- 10 treatment beds serving up to 16 people per month.

As part of The Journey Together: Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, Ontario is investing in Indigenous Mental Health and Addictions Treatment and Healing Centres, by working with Indigenous partners to support culturally appropriate health care and wellness in Indigenous communities. This also aligns with [Ontario's First Nations Health Action Plan](#) to ensure Indigenous people have access to more culturally appropriate care and improved outcomes.

Improving access to health services through Mino Ayaa Ta Win (Helping Ourselves Heal) is one of many steps on Ontario's journey of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. It reflects the government's commitment to work with Indigenous partners, creating a better future for everyone in the province.

QUOTES

"Our government is committed to working with Indigenous partners to support culturally appropriate health care services that better meet the needs of their communities. We are pleased that, together with Health Canada and Fort Frances Tribal Area Health Services, we can improve access to substance use disorder services closer to home for First Nations communities in the region."

— Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

"I'm so pleased to be working in partnership with Mino Ayaa Ta Win Centre to ensure that mental wellness services are provided based on Indigenous knowledge, cultural practices and clinical expertise. This partnership is a further step in our government's commitment to support the wellness of individuals, families and communities in the region."

— Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services

"The Federal government is committed to a renewed nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples. We are committed to improving health outcomes and addressing challenges faced by communities and families affected by mental illness and addiction. Health Canada is pleased to be working in partnership with Fort Frances Tribal Area Health Services and the province of Ontario to improve access to culturally appropriate treatments and supports for the communities in the surrounding area."

— Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Health

"This project has been a collaboration of good will among the many partners and levels of governments. Without cooperation and vision, people in the Rainy River District would continue to struggle to access services taken for granted by a majority of Ontarians. We are proud to be a part of this effort."

— Calvin Morrisseau, Executive Director, Fort Frances Tribal Area Health Services

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is investing almost \$2 million in one-time funding over five years for the Mino Ayaa Ta Win (Helping Ourselves Heal) program. The program is supported by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the North West Local Health Integration Network and Health Canada.
- The Journey Together: Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples outlines the province's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- Ontario's First Nations Health Action Plan is investing nearly \$222 million over three years starting in 2016/17 and \$104.5 million per year thereafter to ensure that Indigenous people have access to more culturally appropriate care and improved outcomes.
- The North West LHIN is home to more than half of the 133 First Nation communities in Ontario, with 21 per cent of the region's population identifying as Indigenous.

LEARN MORE

- [The Journey Together: Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [Ontario's First Nations Health Action Plan](#)

For public inquiries call ServiceOntario, INFOLine at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only)

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