

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Improving Access to Health Care for Aboriginal Families on Manitoulin *New Ontario Government Investing in Aboriginal Health Access Centres*

April 8, 2013 - Ontario is improving access to health care for families on Manitoulin Island by enhancing the Noojmowin Teg Aboriginal Health Access Centre.

New capital investments will support the building of a 4,400 square foot expansion to the Noojmowin Teg Health Centre, in Little Current, on Manitoulin Island. The new space will include a Healing Lodge for traditional healing services, new examination rooms, and a multi-purpose room for meetings and health promotion workshops. These improvements will allow the Noojmowin Teg Health Centre to address current space issues, and further support e-health initiatives, traditional and primary health care services, enabling the Centre to better meet the needs of all its clients.

Aboriginal Health Access Centres focus on helping at-risk populations and those coping with mental health and addictions stay healthy. These centres provide traditional health and wellness services and contemporary primary health care services to Aboriginal patient populations in a culturally appropriate setting.

Ensuring access to the right care, at the right time and in the right place supports [Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care](#), and is part of the new Ontario government's efforts to build a strong economy and a fair society for the benefit of all.

#### QUOTES

"Aboriginal Health Access Centres play a vital role in helping Ontario's aboriginal community get the care they need, close to home. These new renovations for the Noojmowin Teg Health Centre will ensure improved access to high quality health care and other services for local residents."

- Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

"Our recently released three-year strategic plan called for making mental health and substance abuse treatment services more accessible and targeting the needs of culturally diverse populations groups such as Aboriginal/First Nations/Métis. This expansion is a step in the right direction and is clearly focused on ensuring people can get the care they need in community."

- Louise Paquette, CEO, North East Local Health Integration Network.

"We're committed to building a healthier community here in Manitoulin with an emphasis on helping the most vulnerable citizens. This funding will allow us to expand our primary health care, traditional healing services, and health promotion services so that we can better reach out to all populations of the community we serve."

- Pamela Williamson, Executive Director, Noojmowin Teg Health Centre

### QUICK FACTS

- The Noojmowin Teg Health Centre is among 17 sites across the province that will benefit from community capital improvement projects.
- There are 10 Aboriginal Health Access Centres throughout Ontario providing quality care to on- and off-reserve, status, non-status and Métis Aboriginal communities.
- The Sault Area Hospital Residential Withdrawal Management Program is another site in the North East receiving funding as a capital grant. An upgraded space at a new location in closer proximity to the new Sault Area Hospital will allow the hospital to provide expanded addiction withdrawal services for local patients. The hospital will also work with the North East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and community agencies to explore opportunities to strengthen mental health and addiction programs in the Algoma area.

### LEARN MORE

The [Association of Ontario's Health Centres](#) is the voice for community-governed primary health care in Ontario.