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Indigenous Community Consultation Update

January 2022

Aaniin; Boozhoo;Tansi!

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) strongly values the ongoing input of our Indigenous partners, both, in planning for future expansion and in guiding us to ensure access to care and cultural safety in all our practices.

RVH's 20-year "one system; two sites" model for the future will double the size of our current North Campus on Georgian drive and develop a South Campus in Innisfil. As we expand, RVH is committed to co-designing dedicated healing spaces supportive of traditional healing, spiritual health, well-being, ceremony and gathering.

Since 2018 when RVH began its long-range capital planning exercise, we have logged an unprecedented 63,500 stakeholder interactions, conversations which have informed every step of our planning.

SCAN

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Imagine the future of healthcare

RVH South Campus rendering

Indigenous Partner Consultation

As part of our Letter of Relationship, RVH works closely with our Indigenous partners to improve care, spaces, practices and policies. Through our formal partnership with the Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle's Indigenous Health Circle, we have introduced:



Hospital-wide smudging policy



Cultural safety training for staff & physicians



Self-identification protocol



Expanded Indigenous health team



Medicine Wheel / elder teachings



**Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund
Legacy Space installation**



Healing Circle garden



FNMI vaccination plan

Indigenous partners we've engaged with:

- B'Saanibamaadsiwin Indigenous Mental Health Program
- Chippewas of Georgina
- Metis Nation of Ontario
- BANAC
- Enaahitig Healing Lodge and Learning Centre
- Moose Deer Point
- Barrie Native Friendship Centre
- Georgian Bay Metis Council
- Orillia Native Women's Group
- Beausoleil First Nation
- Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre
- Wasauksing First Nation
- Biminaawzogin Regional Aboriginal Women's Circle
- Georgian Bay Native Women's Association
- Wahta Mohawks
- Chippewas of Rama
- Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin
- WENDAT Community Partners

Indigenous feedback themes

RVH has held two expansion-focused engagement sessions with Indigenous partners in 2018 and 2021. Our Indigenous partners also participated in other community engagement sessions, including a large 2018 Partner Summit. RVH also meets regularly with the Indigenous Health Circle. Here is what we've heard so far:

- **Enthusiastic support for the South Campus**
- **Ensure access to culturally safe, trauma-informed services**
- **Provide culturally relevant services and supports**
- **Ensure Indigenous patients and families can gather and perform ceremonies at all stages of the patient journey – from birth to death**
- **Designate healing rooms as a safe space where Indigenous patients and their families can gather, smudge, hold ceremonies and have access to traditional medicine i.e. a Medicine Lodge**
- **Consider having a readily available traditional healer who can help Indigenous patients build trust and confidence in the healthcare system**
- **Ensure there is an outdoor space, like there is currently outside RVH's cancer centre, where outdoor ceremonies can occur. Encourage land-based healing with green space and water features**
- **Design the South Campus to reflect, celebrate and be inclusive of local Indigenous history and culture, including visuals throughout the organization i.e. medicine wheel, clan animals, FNMI map etc.**
- **Create outdoor space to grow medicinal herbs and encourage land-based healing**
- **Develop a proactive plan to identify, recognize, recover and, if appropriate, repatriate any Indigenous remains/artifacts unearthed during construction**



Letter of support from the Indigenous Health Circle:



"On behalf of the IHC, we are writing in support of the future South Campus of the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH). We are aware that RVH has undertaken a wide-ranging community consultation of all sectors in our region and that Indigenous communities and service organizations have been actively engaged in these efforts. Recommendations address the need for space for ceremonies and access to outdoor green space to promote holistic healing and recovery as well as a continuation of current efforts to address health care needs of Indigenous populations."

Next Steps for Indigenous Consultation

We will meet with Indigenous partners to further discuss feedback such as, larger spaces to accommodate ceremonies and family gatherings, access to traditional medicine, and safe spaces that build trust and confidence.

RVH is committed to identifying and honouring any historical significance of the South Campus site and has hired an archaeological firm to conduct an assessment of the property. RVH will engage relevant communities in the staged assessment, including Indigenous partners such as the William Treaties First Nations. Participation will include inviting monitors of the on-site assessment.

RVH is committed to co-designing a plan to identify, protect, honour, recover and, if appropriate, repatriate any Indigenous remains/artifacts unearthed during construction.

We want to hear more from you!

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey at RVHPlanOurFuture.ca/your-voice to provide us with more insight as we Plan our Future. Together.



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