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WAHA *focus*

WEENEEBAYKO AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY
SPRING 2016/17 NEWSLETTER

Health Summit Summary

WAHA was pleased to be invited to the Mushkegowuk Health Summit on March 30th and 31st of this year.

It was a great opportunity to provide a high level overview of both the Operational Review and Weeneebayko Area Health Integration Framework Agreement (WAHIFA) Evaluation to all in attendance (which included Mushkegowuk Council, NAN, the Regional Chiefs and Mayor of the Town of Moosonee, Health Canada FNIHB, Province of Ontario, the NE LHIN and WAHA).

The consultants provided the summaries of the Operational Review and WAHIFA Evaluation reports. I presented a summary of the Action Plan, which was collectively prepared by our funding partners at the Toronto meeting in early February and incorporates all of the recommendations from both reports. A summary of the Communications Engagement Plan was also presented.

Additionally, there was a presentation on NIHB by Health Canada and Deb Hill presented a thorough summary of WAHA's Mental Health Plan and Services across the Coast.

We appreciated the significant opportunity to update our partners and the communities we serve with accurate and up to date information on these significant activities at WAHA. It gave us an opportunity to respond to questions, dispel and correct misinformation and rumors, to reinforce our commitment to ensure WAHA's success, sustainability and a solid financial future and to provide an update on the status of our new Health Care Campus.

We reinforced our mission to meet the objectives and ideals as expressed in WAHIFA, so our people can receive the best possible care closer to home.

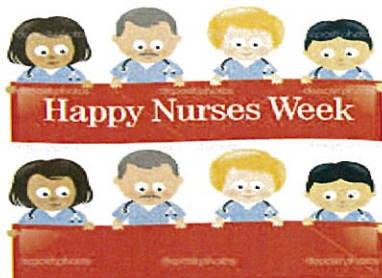
Bernie D. Schmidt
President & CEO



Leo Loone, Board Chair and Bernie D. Schmidt, CEO

Kashechewan Dermatology Emergency

At the request of Chief Friday, a medical team consisting of Drs. Green, Jaffer and MacLean visited Kashechewan at the end of March. There were concerns raised about 17 children reporting significant skin conditions. With the assistance of the Kashechewan Band Health Director and staff, 34 individuals in their home and others at the clinic were seen at the clinic. The Medical Team, after a thorough evaluation, none of those seen required medical evacuation or an emergency dermatology consultation. A few required a prompt out-patient assessment with a skin specialist. Thank you for those that assisted with this community review.



Attawapiskat Mental Health Crisis

I want to assure the Attawapiskat community, WAHA takes the concerns of the people we serve very seriously. As was announced at the Health Summit in Timmins, we have secured a mental health worker for the Attawapiskat community.

WAHA responded to the Attawapiskat State of Emergency by initially sending the following team to the community—a physician, two WAHA Traditional Healers, WAHA's Manager, Community Mental Health Program, two Counsellors from the WAHA Community Mental Health Program, and the WAHA Social Worker. To oversee the administrative component of this crisis situation senior leaders have been rotating in and out of the community providing up to 16 hours/day 7 days/week coverage since April 11th. These leaders continue to work with the community leaders and the partnering providers to establish a more collaborative approach to case management within the community. The Emergency Medical Assistance Team was deployed by the Emergency Services Branch of Ontario to offer respite to WAHA nursing staff as well as providing highly skilled crisis workers to assist in assessments of all clients presenting to the hospital with mental health concerns.



Current activities include working with the NELHIN, Provincial and Federal partners to transition hospital operations to the next phase of crisis management.

Deb Hill, VP, Patient Care/CNE

WAHA Celebrating their Employees

WAHA celebrated its fifth year of existence in the fall of last year and this spring we recognized the employees who served WAHA well. Below are some photographs of their recognition.



Frances Hookimaw who has 50 years of service cutting the Attawapiskat Service Award cake.



Kathy Faries-Quachegan was presented with her pin and award by Francine Linklater and Ancy Rajan at WGH

