

# Board Meeting Summary

January 27-28, 2025



## Recognition of Late Chief Allan Jolly

The Board observed a moment of silence in memory of Allan Jolly, Chief of MoCreebec Eeyoud Council. MoCreebec Eeyoud is a signatory to the Weeneebayko Area Health Integration Framework Agreement (WAHIFA), which outlines health service delivery expectations within the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA) region.

Chief Jolly was a visionary leader whose life was devoted to advocating for the rights and welfare of MoCreebec members. His steadfast dedication to preserving Cree culture and promoting the goals of his community has profoundly impacted all who were fortunate to know him.

## President and Chief Executive Officer Report – Lynne Innes

### New Hospital Redevelopment Project

- On October 3, 2024, the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority Redevelopment Project achieved both commercial and financial closure. Pomerleau Healthcare Partners has secured a fixed-price contract valued at \$1.8 billion to complete the design, construction, and financing of the upcoming regional healthcare campus in Moosonee, along with an ambulatory care center in Moose Factory.
- Stage 5 construction commenced in November 2024. The new hospital construction is scheduled to begin in June 2025, with an expected substantial completion date of July 2030.
- The project includes the development of 15 duplexes and a staff residence with a capacity of 200 beds. The north and south railway spur lines are almost complete. The railway spur will allow materials to be brought directly to and from the construction site.
- The WAHA Redevelopment Project team received an Outstanding Achievement award at the 2024 Ministry of Health Achievement, Commitment, and Excellence (ACE) Awards.

## Renderings of New Weeneebayko Area Health Authority Facilities



Figure 1 Aerial view of the future regional healthcare campus in Moosonee, ON



Figure 2 Aerial view of the future hospital in Moosonee, ON

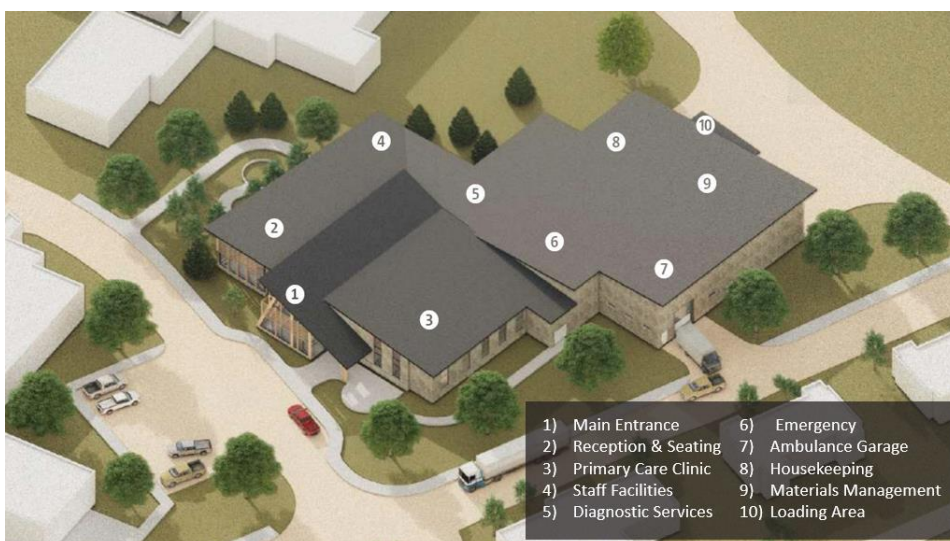


Figure 3 Aerial view of the future ambulatory care centre in Moose Factory, ON

\*Please note that these design renders of the new regional healthcare campus and ambulatory care centre are subject to change throughout the Design Development Phase.

## Federal Capital: Structural Upgrades

- Weeneebayko General Hospital (WGH):
  - Electric heat is completed on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors
  - 3 new boiler systems were installed at WGH in October 2024 delivering stable and consistent heat to all floors.
  - Roof work has begun and is expected to be completed by spring 2025.
- An evaluation of the roofs in Attawapiskat and Fort Albany has been conducted in preparation for a proposal for new roofing, anticipated to be finalized in the 2025-26 timeframe.

## President of Medical Staff Association – Dr. Katherine Turner

- Update on Opioid Replacement Program
- The physician group continues to meet regularly to address vital issues and is in the process of developing a recruitment and retention strategy for the region.

## Senior Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer – Jack Hutchison

### Updates and New Initiatives

- A consulting firm has been procured to create and execute a new master plan. This effort will support the objectives of WAHIFA, emphasizing the commitment to future planning, community engagement, and the oversight of our board of directors.
- Successfully concluded negotiations with the Public Services Alliance of Canada (PSAC), achieving ratification in September 2024. Updates regarding wages, benefits, and working conditions have been shared with all staff. Bargaining with ONA is anticipated for fall 2025.
- WAHA was selected to become an approved agency for Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) Summer Studentship Program. This designation allows WAHA to receive funding for a specified number of students in the fields of Nursing, Medical Laboratory, Physiotherapy, and Occupational Therapy.
- MEDITECH Expansion Project is underway to enhance health information management across all communities within the WAHA region.
- Security services have successfully onboarded a Manager of Security and Emergency Preparedness. The aim is to maintain a security presence at all sites, contingent upon securing funding.
- Efforts are underway with Weenusk First Nation (Peawanuck) to implement Community Paramedicine, with community and stakeholder engagement scheduled for winter 2025. Another objective is to expand community paramedicine to Attawapiskat in 2025, where preliminary discussions have begun with the community health team.

## Employer Value Proposition (EVP)

- The goal of this project is to broaden talent market awareness. The EVP is being implemented and a tour of the coastal sites to launch internally will begin January 2025.
- The employer branding strategy includes a newly designed careers page on the website, an updated Indeed profile, recruitment marketing posts on LinkedIn, digital and retractable banners, discipline-specific recruitment sell sheets, playbooks for managers and candidates, and WAHA postcards highlighting the scenic aspects of our region.

## Information Technology

- IT is advancing with the network campus review, collaborating with local and regional vendors such as Bell/NTL/Ontera, MoCreebec, Western James Bay Telecom, KNET, and Ontario Health.
- Network designs are currently in progress for all locations, including Peawanuck (clinic), Attawapiskat (hospital), Kashechewan (clinic), Fort Albany (hospital), Moosonee, and the primary hospital site in Moose Factory. Each site is being equipped with network technologies, such as fiber and satellite, to enhance reliability and performance.

## Weeneebayko Health Education Program

- MasterCard Foundation and Queen's University held a strategy session for the Weeneebayko Health Education Program. During this session, a workplan and annual objectives were established. The university program is on track to commence in the fall of 2026. The initial two years will encompass a broad range of disciplines, while the subsequent two years will focus on content expertise.

## Contractor and Contract Management

- All contractors must submit evidence of insurance, WSIB coverage, and relevant qualifications. Streamlining procurement processes ensures compliance and adherence to legal requirements for contract awards. It is crucial to confirm that all contractors working on hospital property adhere to the hospital building code, uphold quality standards, and implement infection control measures.

## For further information contact:

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