



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024

FIREFLY Supports Calls for Action on Rural Generalist Care Funding

In solidarity with the All Nations Health Partners, FIREFLY is joining the call to the Ministry of Health to support a new model for Rural Generalist Care in the Kenora area. As detailed by the All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team (ANHP OHT), the healthcare system in Kenora is facing a crisis and cannot wait any longer for attention and action.

As a key provider of child and youth physical, developmental, community and mental health services in the Kenora and Rainy River Districts, we recognize the growing shortage of physicians is creating an unsustainable care model in the Kenora area.

We know that children and youth in the Northwest have the highest rates of emergency room visits and hospitalization for mental health and behavioural issues in the province. Additionally, northern youth have the highest rates of suicide and intentional self-harm. Access to local and consistent primary health care and emergency services provides an essential pathway to community and specialized supports and treatment.

“Children and youth cannot wait. Whether it’s a mental health crisis or a developmental concern, it is crucial they have access to local primary health care. This is literally about protecting the lives and future well-being of our younger generations and as such should be treated with the respect and attention it deserves,” says FIREFLY CEO, Karen Ingebrigtsen.

We echo calls for the Ministry of Health to support the proposed Rural Generalist Care model. This model ensures equitable access to physician care for all and was developed collaboratively by local physicians, healthcare organizations, and First Nations leadership.

FIREFLY stands alongside our community partners in urging the Ministry of Health to act swiftly to support this locally driven solution and prevent further jeopardy to healthcare services in our region.

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