

VIRTUAL Town Hall



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
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Welcome to the Town Hall



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Introduction

Dr. Rhonda Crocker Ellacott, *President and CEO, TBRHSC, and CEO, TBRHRI*



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Agenda for September 16, 2026

- ▶ **Introduction** – *R. Crocker Ellacott*
- ▶ **Reflections From the Front Lines (ICCs in the Emergency Department)** – *J. Wintermans*
- ▶ **Staff Spotlight (Traditional Wellness)** – *A. Klement*
- ▶ **Meditech Expanse Update** – *D.M. Perry*
- ▶ **2025-26 Academic Affairs Annual Report** – *N. Jumah*
- ▶ **Cardiovascular Surgery Program (Construction Update)** – *A. Bruno*
- ▶ **Foundation Events and Family CARE Grants Overview** – *L. Andricciola / H. Werbowetski-Tarini*
- ▶ **Strategic Plan 2026 Q1 Report and our Next Strategic Plan** – *J. Logozzo*
- ▶ **Your Questions Answered** – *J. Wintermans*
- ▶ **Closing Remarks** – *R. Crocker Ellacott*



Reflections From the Front Lines:

ICCs in the Emergency Department

Jennifer Wintermans, *Vice President, Clinical Services, Quality and Corporate Affairs*



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<https://youtu.be/O3q7OIfd-V4>



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Staff Spotlight:

Traditional Wellness

Annette Klement, *Traditional Wellness Lead*



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Traditional Wellness: The Elders We Work With



Elder Peter Sackaney



Elder Gerry Martin



Ma-Nee Chacaby



The Late Elder Aaron Therriault Baa



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Meditech Expanse Local Update

Dawna Maria Perry, *Interim Chief Nursing Information Officer*

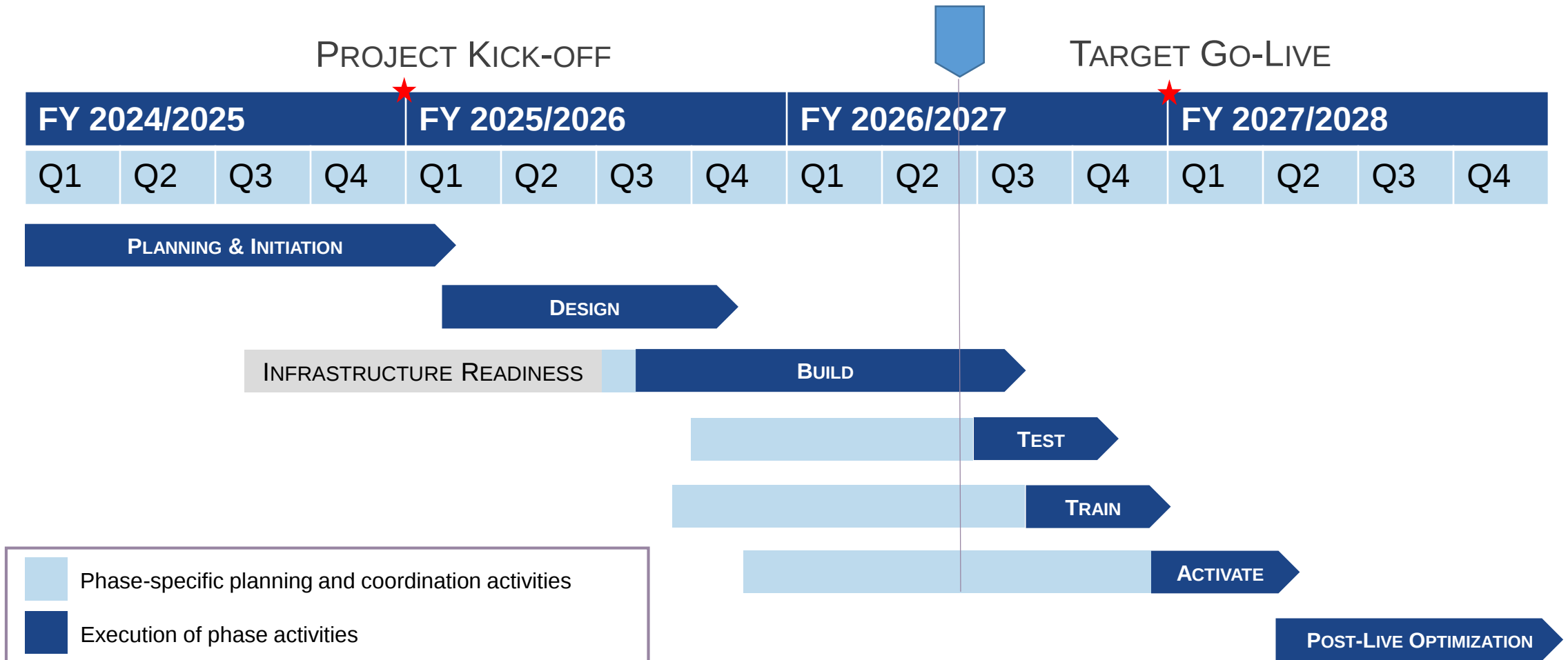


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Moving Forward





Testing Plan

- Unit testing
- Pre Integration Testing
- Integration Testing (IST2)
- Parallel testing
- Interface Testing
- Device & Hardware Testing

Integration Testing (IST2)

- IST2 is simply "**Workflow Testing**"
- Involves designated testers from hospital organizations across Northwestern Ontario to work through realistic, end-to-end healthcare scenarios and confirm that Meditech Expanse will function as intended for departments and roles.
- Purpose is to test the system, confirm that information flows accurately and connected workflows function as expected from beginning to end.



Key Outputs and Deliverables

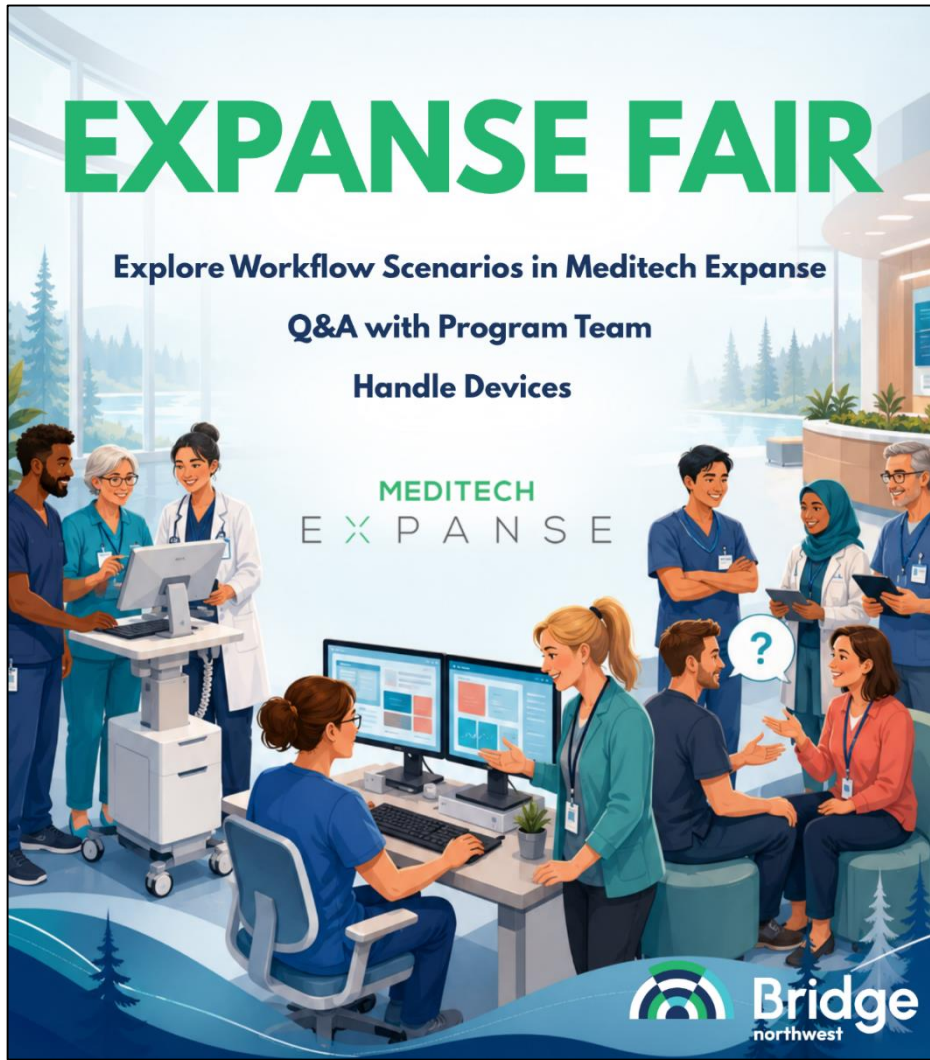
Each phase produces:

- Documented test results
- Defect logs and remediation plans
- Readiness assessments
- Formal sign-offs

Final outcomes include:

- Validated system build
- Confirmed end-to-end workflows
- Verified interfaces and devices
- Organizational readiness confirmation
- Evidence-based Go-Live decision





When: September 25, 2026

Location: Auditorium A (3rd Level)

Duration: 4 – 6 hour event

Who should attend: All staff, professional staff, learners

What staff can expect:

- Explore some Expanse Test Scenarios
- Q&A with Program Representatives
- Handle some of the new devices



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2025-26 Academic Affairs Annual Report

Dr. Naana Jumah, *Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs*



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We are proud to recognize our local academic partners



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Meet our Team



Dr. Naana Jumah
AVP, Academic Affairs



Jennifer Fawcett
Director, Medical &
Academic Affairs



Karen Anderson
Manager, Academic Affairs

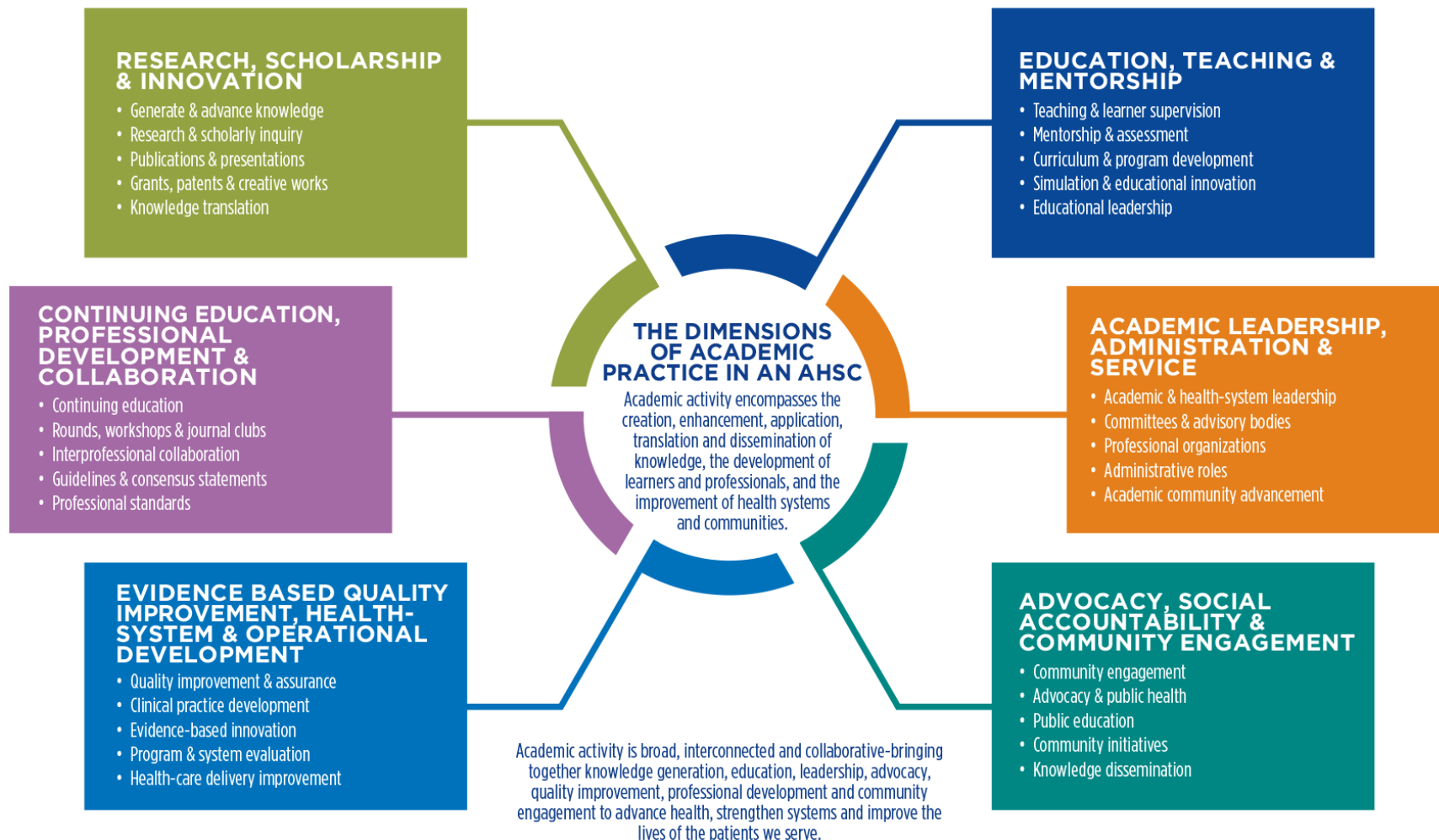


Jane Varley
Academic Advisor,
Academic Affairs



Haley Koopman
Administrative Assistant,
Academic Affairs

- 25 Health Professions Academic Placement Coordinators
- 25 Nursing Destination Coordinators
- 2 Nursing Receiving Coordinators
- 6 Undergraduate Medical Education Clerkship Leads
- 14 Postgraduate Sites Directors
- 5 Thunder Bay Based Program Directors



Academic Mandate



Hospital Care Mandate



Inpatient Medical Care Mandate



Number of Learners January 1 - December 31, 2025

Total Learner Numbers

1,103 

Health Professions

204 

Medicine  **304**

Nursing

595 

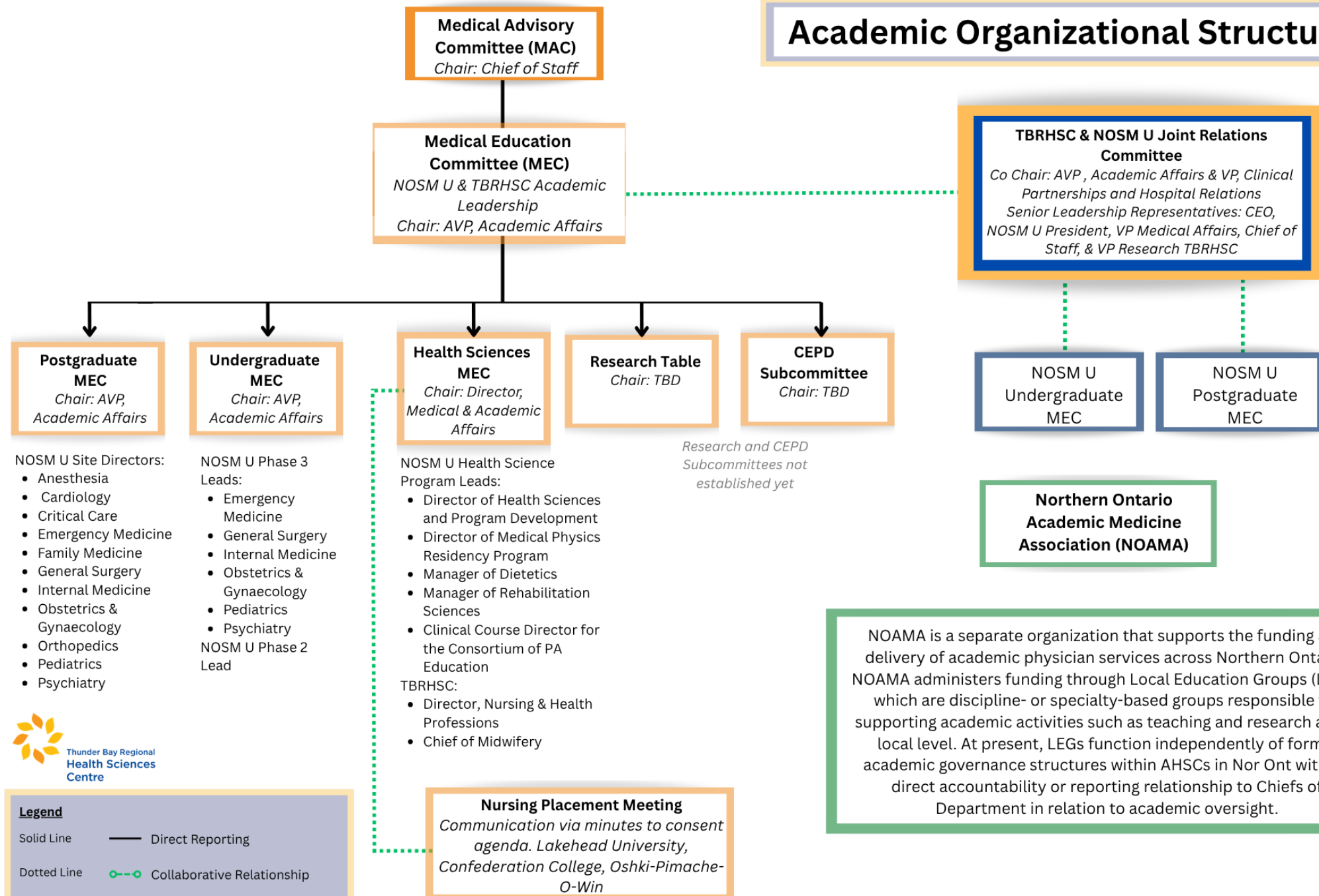


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Academic Organizational Structure



Grand Rounds



10
Grand
Rounds
sessions



High
attendance
and strong
engagement



Relevant
topics that
support
lifelong
learning
and practice



Interprofes-
sional panels
with broad
clinical
perspectives

“So great - very helpful as a FM resident for primary care and also ER work. The guideline resources were also great.”

“Developed a further and more comprehensive understanding of a very complex medical issue.”



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51 Active Affiliation Agreements



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Learner Impact and Program Growth: Nursing



Jennifer Gallardo
Hometown: Niagara, Toronto, Edmonton
Program: BS Nursing at Lakehead University

What does an average day during your placement look like?
I start my day by reviewing my assigned patients' charts, prioritizing care, and conducting initial assessments.

After meeting each patient and addressing their immediate needs, I collaborate with my preceptor and the health care team to ensure care is coordinated. My responsibilities often include medication administration, performing patient-specific clinical skills such as wound dressing change, IV insertion, CBI procedure, NG tube, etc. At the end of each intervention, I complete thorough documentation to maintain accurate records and continuity of care.

Is there a mentor or faculty member who has significantly impacted you?
I am deeply grateful for Nick Donohue of the 2A Unit, who has been a tremendous influence on my learning. He helped me appreciate the importance of prioritizing care, clustering care, and conducting focused assessments while applying critical reasoning. His mentorship has refined my clinical judgment and reinforced the value of truly listening to patients and remaining keenly observant.

Nursing Number of Learners January 1 - December 31, 2025

Post RN	RPN	BScN Blend
3	189	5

BScN	Nurse Practitioner
375	23

Nursing Number of Placements January 1 - December 31, 2025

Post RN	RPN	BScN Blend
4	513	5

BScN	Nurse Practitioner
898	29

Learner Impact and Program Growth: Health Professions



Megan Dysievic
Hometown: Kakabeka Falls, ON
Program: Doctor of Pharmacy at the University of Waterloo

What does an average day during your placement look like?

I am currently completing a placement in the Specialty Pharmacy within the Cancer Centre at TBRHSC.

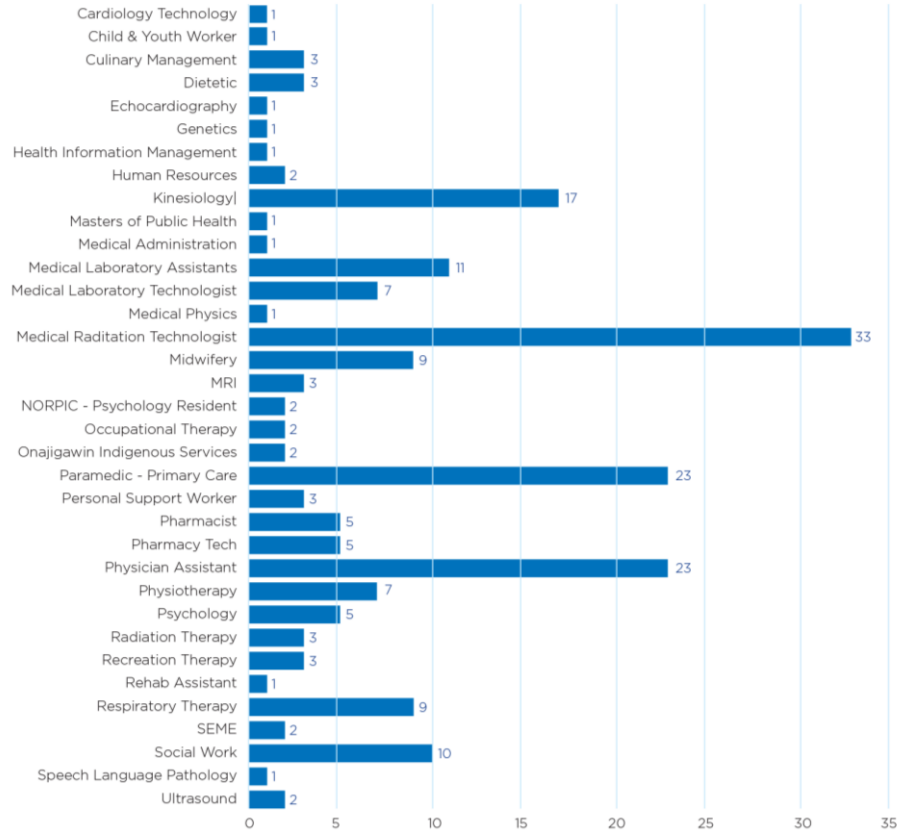
Each day brings something different, as the pharmacists here have a wide range of responsibilities. One of my primary tasks is performing dose checks on oral chemotherapy medications.

The oncologists send the pharmacy team different regimens that they either want to start a patient on, or are considering as part of treatment. I review the regimen and provide a dosage that is appropriate for the patient based on their condition, lab values, etc. I review their other medications to check for any potential interactions, and if there are any present, determine how we manage them.

I also answer questions patients have about natural health products and whether they are safe to take with their chemotherapy, home medications, and medical conditions. I observe the pharmacists when they teach patients about their new oral chemotherapy meds, and help provide counselling on supportive medications they may be on during treatment. I also help provide follow up once patients are started on new oral chemotherapy regimens.

Health Professions Learner Numbers

January 1 - December 31, 2025



Learner Impact and Program Growth: Medicine



Alesha Bishop

Hometown: Thunder Bay, ON
Program: 4th Year NOSM U
Medical Student

What does an average day during your placement look like?

I am currently on my emergency core block so each day is very different. Some days I am working with a preceptor navigating complex acute cases in a rapid fashion, and other days I'm on the fast track side working on clinical and procedural skills including casting, suturing, dressing changes, and overall helping patients with rapid-style care to get them back to doing what they love.

Is there a mentor or faculty member who has significantly impacted you?

A mentor that has significantly impacted me is Dr. Beverly Preater. Her love of rural medicine has impacted my desire to practice rural medicine, where patients still experience acute pathology, but you have to navigate situations in resource-limited facilities. You rely on the team, your training, and gestalt to treat critical situations, where sometimes guidelines don't apply and tools become multi-purposeful.

Number of Learners

January 1 - December 31, 2025

Undergrad Medical Students
147

Fellow
1

Post-graduate Residents
156

Cardiovascular Surgery Program (Construction Update)

Aaron Bruno, Project Manager, Capital and Facility Services



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2rd Level – Ambulatory Care



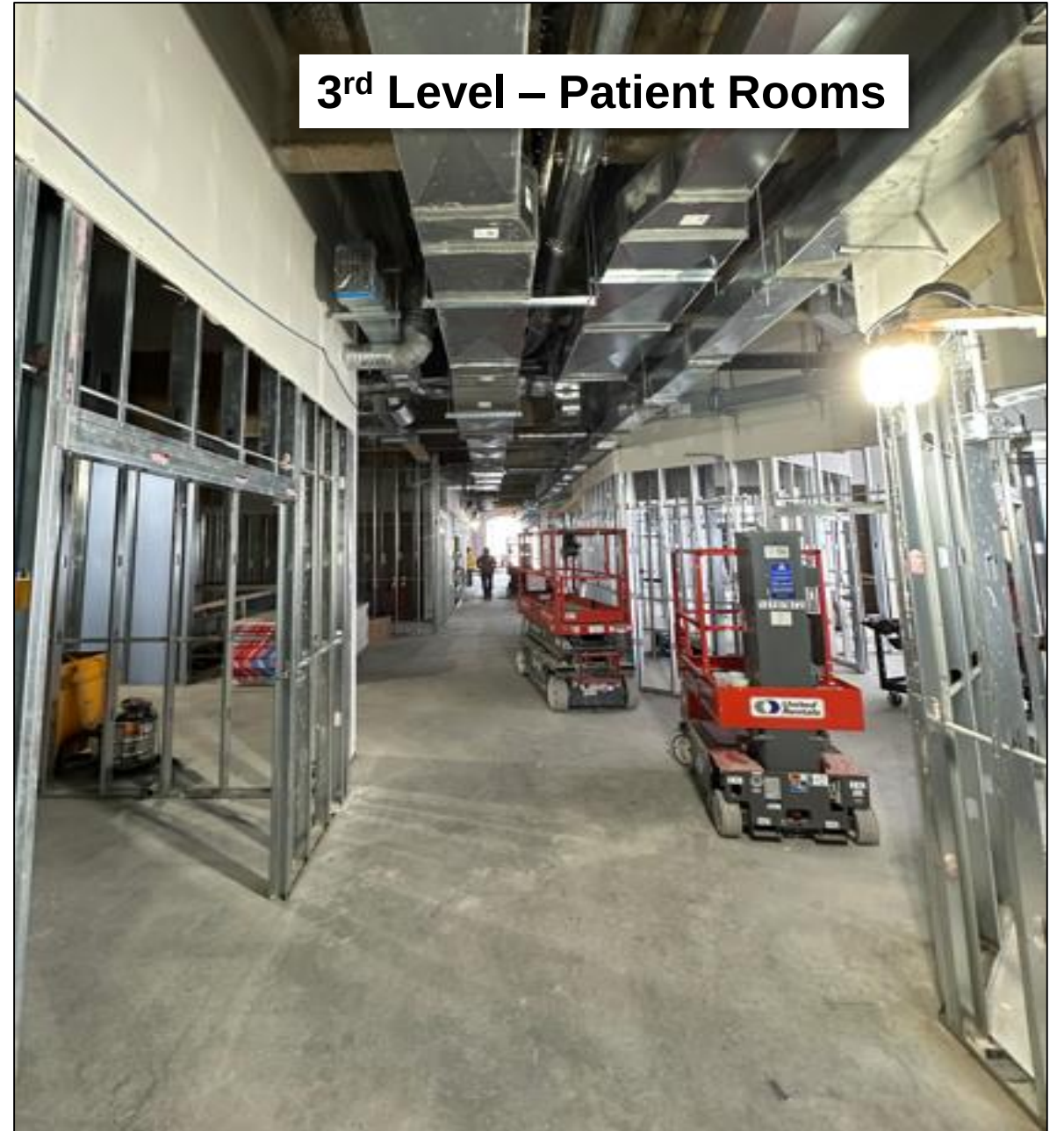
3rd Level – CCU Rooms



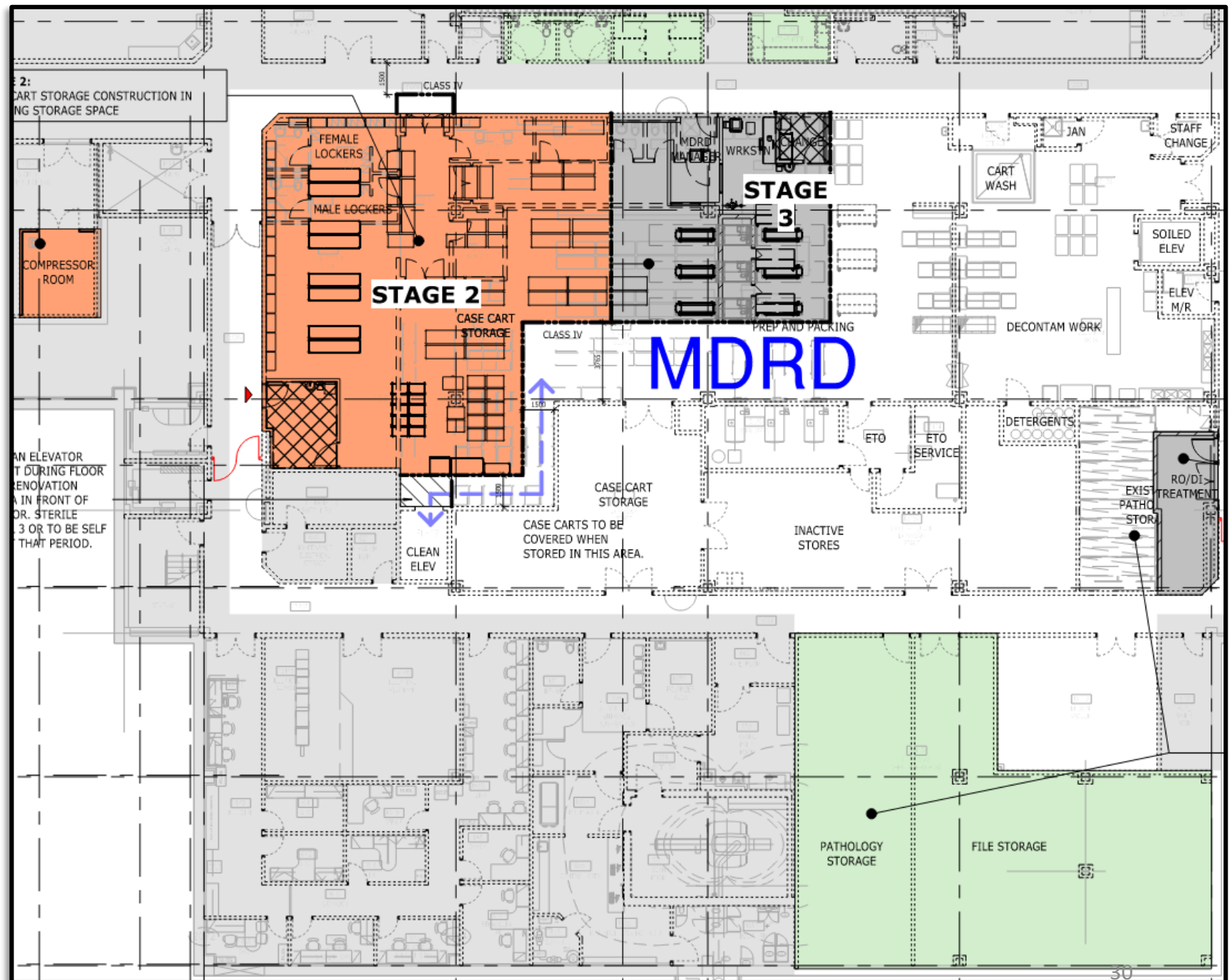
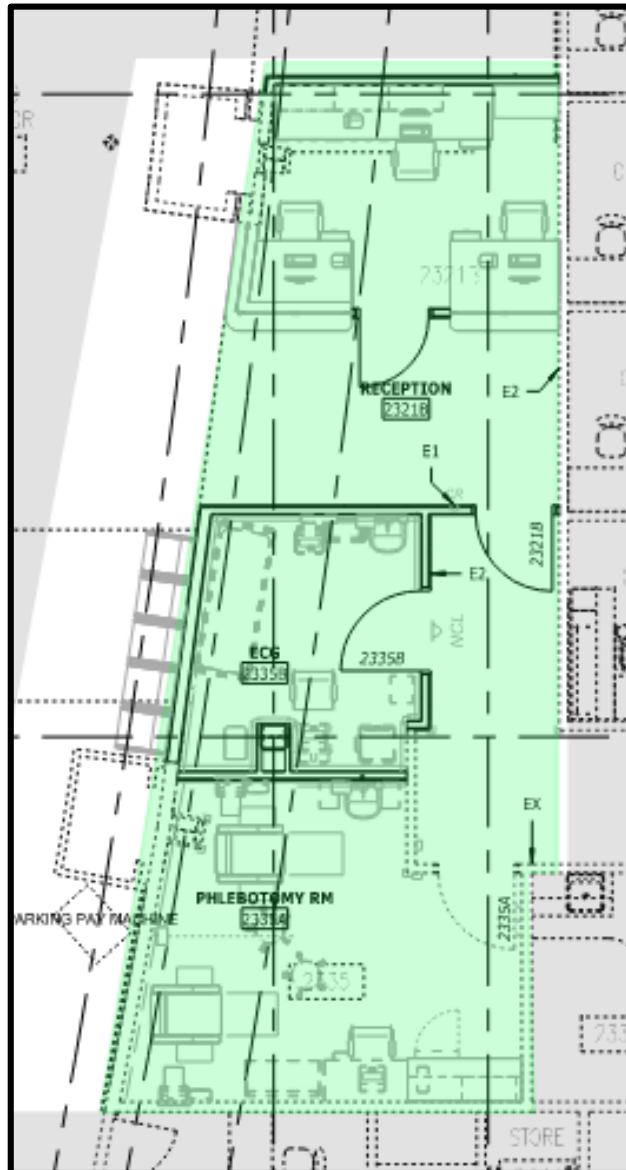
3rd Level – Hybrid OR

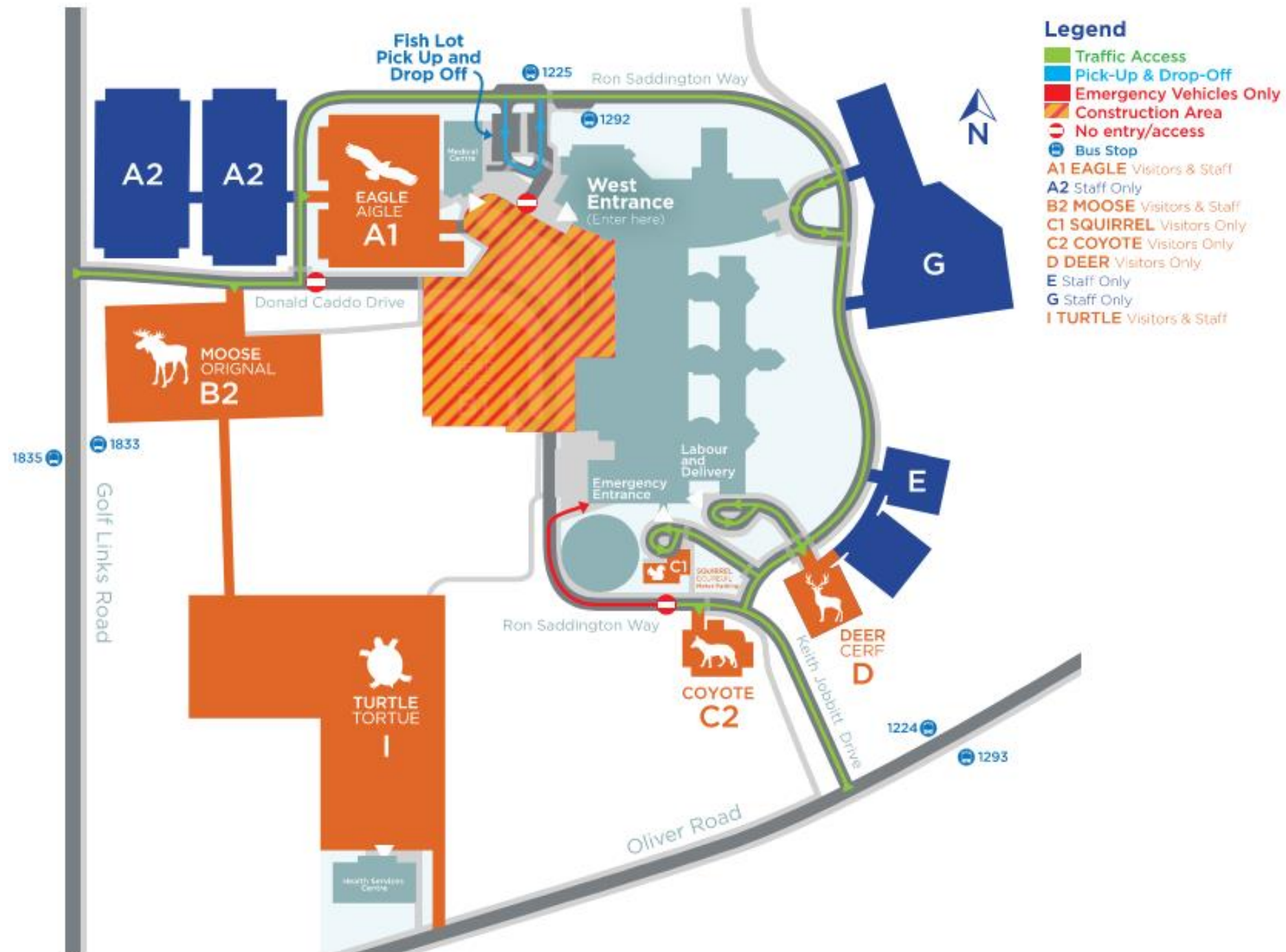


3rd Level – Patient Rooms



Reception, ECG, and Phlebotomy





Need More Information?

Visit the Cardiovascular Surgery Program page on the Hospital's website.

- www.tbrhsc.net

Check out the Frequently Asked Questions resource.

- <https://bit.ly/TBRHSC-CVS-FAQs>



Cardiovascular Surgery Program
Frequently Asked Questions

Construction is expected to take three years.

What is the Cardiovascular Surgery Program?
To improve patient care for the region, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC) has been working with the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre (PMCC) at the University Health Network (UHN) to co-develop a cardiovascular surgery (CVS) program at TBRHSC since 2013. We are in an exciting stage of the project, where 76,000 square feet of space will be renovated and expanded to accommodate a new comprehensive Cardiovascular Surgery Program that will allow our Hospital to complete vital cardiac procedures, reduce wait times for urgent and elective procedures and ensure timely access to essential services in the region.

This transformative project will include

- 14 Cardiovascular Surgery inpatient beds
- 6 New Coronary Care Unit beds
- 1 New Hybrid Operating Room

Renovations to Operating Rooms 9 & 10 | A new Ambulatory Cardiovascular Care Clinic and Pre-admission Clinic expansion | Renovations to Medical Devices Reprocessing and Biomedical departments

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre

Exceptional CARE for every patient, every time.





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Northern
Cardiac Fund



Health Sciences
Discovery Fund



Northern
Cancer Fund

Foundation Events & Family CARE Grants Overview

September 2026

Haley Werbowetski-Tarini, *Manager of Events,*
and **Laura Andricciola**, *Executive Coordinator,* from the Thunder Bay Regional Health
Sciences Foundation



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Northern
Cardiac Fund



Health Sciences
Discovery Fund



Northern
Cancer Fund



Keynote Speaker:

Kim MacDonald

The Weather Network



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Information:

#1 Friday, October 16th 2026

#2 Superior Inn Hotel & Conference Centre

#3 Vendor Room: 10:30am – 12:00pm

#4 Lunch and even program 12:00pm – 2:00pm

#5 Bling Blitz for a custom ring by VOWD

#6 Travel Blitz for 2 tickets anywhere Westjet flies

#7 Locally supported penny auction



Tickets

General Ticket = **\$85**

VIP Ticket = **\$125**

- 2 bottles of wine on table
- Best viewpoint of the stage

General Table of 8 = **\$680**

VIP Table of 8 = **\$1,000**

- 2 bottles of wine on table
- Best viewpoint of the stage



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Purchase them at
www.healthsciencesfoundation.ca/luncheon

Any Questions or assistance with tickets

**Haley Werbowetski-Tarini
(807) 684-7113**

Haley.werbowetski@healthsciencesfoundation.ca

What does Family CARE Grants Stand For?

- CARE = Care Advancements Recommended by Employees
- We believe that *the people providing care every day* are often the best equipped to know how to make it even better.
- That's why this program exists — to empower you, the frontline staff, to turn great ideas into real, tangible improvements for our patients, their families, and our colleagues.



The Application



The Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation Family CARE (Care Advancement Recommended by Employees) Grant Application Form

NEW! Grants awarded for up to \$5,000 per application.

Please do NOT include this page in your application. This is an informational cover page.

Eligibility:

The following criteria apply to all Family CARE Grant requests:

1. Benefit to patients and staff by supporting needs not covered through existing funding sources.
2. Improve the workplace environment and support Patient and Family Centered Care by enhancing internal programs at TBRHSC.

Ineligible:

The following will **not** be considered:

1. Conferences, workshops, training, professional development, and research activities solely for staff.
2. Technology and electronic devices, including smartphones, tablets, printers, etc.
3. Items that do not contribute to the delivery of patient care (i.e. personal items or staff recognition gifts).

Application Procedure:

1. A complete application must include ALL required signatures, a description of the project/item, and cost breakdown in Canadian dollars (incl. taxes & shipping).
2. Submit your application by **Friday, October 30, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.**
 - a. SIX (6) paper copies (in person or picked up from unit)
 - b. ONE (1) electronic copy (.doc or .pdf) via email
3. *NEW* Roaming Cart pick up October 26 - 30, OR Deliver hard copies to:
Laura Andricciola - Foundation Office - Room 2232 (Foundation President's Office), beside the Cancer Centre Main Lobby Entrance
4. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.
5. All equipment requests must comply with hospital requirements and be supported and serviced by Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.
6. If approved, applicants must submit invoices for purchased items by **March 31, 2028**. Please note: payments are made to the Health Sciences Centre, not individuals.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Andricciola, Executive Coordinator at ext. 7276 or by email at laura.andricciola@tbh.net.



Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation Family CARE Grants Evaluation Form 2026

Criteria	SCORE
1. Impact & Benefit The project demonstrates a clear and meaningful benefit to patients, families, staff, or the overall healthcare environment.	/10
2. Alignment & Appropriateness The project is appropriate for TBRHSC and supports the delivery or enhancement of healthcare, the patient and family experience, or the workplace environment.	/5
3. Need & Rationale The application clearly identifies the need for the project, provides a strong rationale for the request, and demonstrates the anticipated impact.	/10
4. Feasibility & Innovation The purchase plan and implementation are realistic and well thought out, and the project demonstrates creativity, innovation, or added value.	/10
5. Foundation Impact & Visibility The project provides an opportunity to demonstrate the impact of Foundation funding and, where appropriate, communicate its benefit to staff, patients, families, donors, and the broader community.	/5
TOTAL	/40



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Common FAQ's



Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation

FAMILY C.A.R.E. GRANT PROGRAM

C.A.R.E. = Care Advancements Recommended by Employees

Supporting compassionate, patient- and family-centred care

TIMELINE



APPLICATIONS OPEN
Early September

→



SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION
Prepare and submit your completed application.

→



APPLICATION DEADLINE
End of October

WHAT WE SUPPORT (ELIGIBLE REQUESTS)

- Benefit patients and staff by supporting needs not covered through existing funding sources
- Improve the care environment and support patient- and family-centred care
- Enhance internal health programs at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre

EXAMPLES OF APPROPRIATE REQUESTS



Patient comfort items (e.g., recliners, therapeutic furniture, sensory tools)



Equipment that enhances patient care or experience



Items that create a welcoming and supportive environment for patients and families



Program-related supplies that directly support patient care delivery



Tools or resources that improve patient engagement or education

WHAT IS NOT FUNDED (INELIGIBLE REQUESTS)

- Conferences, workshops, training, or professional development
- Research projects
- Staff-only items or general-use technology not directly tied to patient care (e.g., break room items, iPads, cameras, printers, books, or manuals)

WHERE TO FIND THE APPLICATION

-  **Emailed to Each Manager**
The application is sent to all managers in early September.
-  **On Our Website**
Available on the Foundation website under the Family C.A.R.E. Grant Program.
-  **On the Intranet**
Found under the Foundation tab at the bottom of the page.

SCAN TO ACCESS THE APPLICATION



healthsciencesfoundation.ca/familycare

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Can I submit more than one request?
Yes, but each request must be submitted on a separate application form.

→



What makes a strong application?
Clear demonstration of patient benefit, alignment with patient- and family-centred care, and a detailed, accurate cost breakdown.

→



Can I apply for equipment?
Yes, as long as it meets hospital requirements and can be supported and serviced by the Health Sciences Centre.

→



How are funds distributed if my application is approved?
Payments are made directly to Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, not to individuals.

→



What happens if my application is incomplete?
Incomplete applications (missing signatures, descriptions, or cost details) will not be considered.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Laura Andricciola, Executive Coordinator
Ext. 7276 | laura.andricciola@rbh.net



Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation

Grant Funding

- Family Care Grants
 - Up to \$150,000 – 2026
 - \$126,983 – 2025
 - \$140,383 – 2024
 - \$123,417 – 2023



Examples of Approved Applications



Family CARE Grants

Graco SmartSense Soothing Baby Swing

- Rhythmic motion helps settle newborns
- Especially useful during night shift, when there can be up to 18 babies on the unit



Family CARE Grants

Accessible Hexagon Picnic Tables for Outdoor Gardens x 3

- Accessible for wheelchair and walker users
- Made of durable, eco-friendly recycled plastic



Family CARE Grants

Vibroacoustic Therapy Rocker

- Cradles the body while rocking, playing music, and vibrating to promote relaxation and well-being for patients in the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Unit



Family CARE Grants

Suction-Assisted Laryngoscopy Airway Decontamination Manikin & Sets

- Allows realistic training on suctioning airways filled with fluids
- Further prepares staff for life-threatening airway emergencies



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Strategic Plan 2026 Q1 Report and our Next Strategic Plan

Jessica Logozzo, *Vice President, Strategy and Regional Transformation*



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Overall Progress & Status Report to 2026/27 Q1

SP2026 Direction / Enabler	Initiative Status					
	Total	On Track	Slightly Behind	Significantly Behind	Not Started	Complete
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion	7	2				5
Patient Experience	5	3				2
Staff Experience	7	5				2
Research, Innovation & Learning	3	2				1
Sustainable Future	4	4				0
Total	26	16	0	0	0	10



Strategic Indicator Results for 2026/27 Q1

 Continuing to exceed new target for the number of patients and staff that self-identify as Indigenous.

 Exceeding target for the number of staff that have participated in “Repairing the Sacred Circle” an Indigenous Cultural Awareness and Education Primer (SLC, Professional Staff and Staff); slightly below target for management staff due to recent turnover.

 Exceeding target for overall positive experience ratings for Inpatient & Emergency Department patients. **Q1 results are preliminary*

 Below target for 30-day inpatient readmission rate for Congestive Heart Failure. **Q1 results are preliminary*

 Final results from HSO Global Workforce Survey shared.

 Slightly below target for number of investigator-initiated research studies informed by Northwestern Ontario population needs.

 Achieved new target for number of participants enrolled in a clinical trial in 2026/27.

 Not meeting target for percent operating gross margin. New target is 0%.

 The proportion of patients aligned with regional programs/services indicator reporting paused due to the sunseting of the national portal from which data is obtained (CIHI). Results are limited to November 2025.

Our Next Strategic Plan

- TBRHSC/TBRHRI current Strategic Plan (SP2026) is set to end in December 2026
- **This means that it is time to plan for our next Strategic Plan!**
- Several factors will guide our approach...
 - Our Mission, Vision, Values and directions have set us on a strong foundation and will continue to guide us
 - Significant initiatives already underway will remain key priorities in the years ahead – CVS, Meditech Expanse
 - We have heard a clear and consistent message re: the need for focus, prioritization and alignment
 - Increasing demands and finite resources – we are being asked to do more with less
- So, our plan will look different this time
- Your input and engagement is critical to the development of this plan



We Need Your Feedback on Our Next Strategic Plan!

1

What can we do **better and/or more efficiently**?

2

What can we do **less of, or stop doing** altogether?

3

How can we better connect **clinical care, research, education and everyday work** so that they support each other more effectively?

4

Looking ahead to 2031, what would make you most proud to work here as an academic health sciences centre?



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Questions?



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Closing Remarks

Dr. Rhonda Crocker Ellacott, *President and CEO, TBRHSC, and CEO, TBRHRI*



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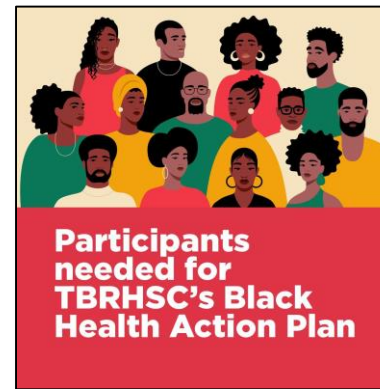
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Housekeeping Appreciation Week
(September 13-19)



Neonatal Nurses Week
(September 13-19)



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