



The Rev. Tommy Beardy Memorial
WEE CHE HE WAYO-GAMIK
FAMILY TREATMENT CENTRE

NEWSLETTER



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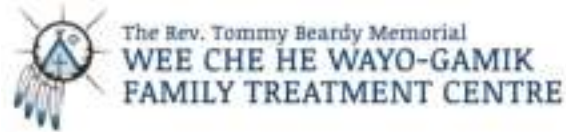
This newsletter provides you with the latest information on the Rev. Tommy Beardy Memorial Wee Che He Wayo-Gamik Family Treatment Centre.

We encourage and welcome all inquiries about our Family Treatment Centre and programs. If you have any questions, please call, write or e-mail.

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Message and updates from Executive Director William Kaminawash

It has been a difficult year for everyone with the challenges brought on by the pandemic, but I am proud of how our Treatment Centre and the community has responded. As you will read in this newsletter our team has been trained on COVID-19 and has been supplied with PPE materials to keep our clients and staff safe. I am also pleased to share that there have been a number of upgrades to Centre including a new generator, fibre internet, and a newly donated ambulance. You can read about all of this and much more below!



Staff trained on COVID-19 testing

Treatment Centre staff recently received training how to use and administer COVID-19 tests. Using Abbott ID testing kits, the Centre will now be able to ensure an even more safe environment to combat COVID-19. Executive Director, William Kaminawash, reflected, “It will certainly help safeguards our clients, staff and community as whole”. He thanked IFNA and Health Canada for getting the team set up with the testing and protective gear.



Q&A with Treatment Director Raija Vic

Can you tell us about your experience working with addiction programs?

I have worked in Mental Health and Addictions for more than 25 years in the capacity of Treatment Coordinator, Clinical Director, Treatment Director and as an Addiction's Counsellor. I graduated from the Indigenous Wellness and Addiction Prevention Program and was part of developing a Mental Health series for Front-Line Workers. The purpose of this project was to assist in building concurrent capable centres that provide treatment and mental health services.



What brought you to work with the Tommy Beardy Family Treatment Centre?

I have assisted the Reverend Tommy Beardy Memorial Family Treatment Centre over the years with the development of a policy and procedure manual for the Land-Based model of treatment and safety protocols. I also developed policy and procedures for accreditation and developed a Health and Safety Manual for all employees.

I am very excited to be a part of the incredible work being done to bring people back to their land for healing and re-establishing family connections with their traditional practices and beliefs. The residential schools taught the children to suppress their emotions as adults. Families attending treatment are taught to express and identify their feelings and emotions through counselling and family therapy. Land-based programming brings families together to participate in lost family togetherness, connectedness and healing through pride of culture, heritage and traditional activities.

The pandemic has been difficult for a lot of people. How do you think the need for addiction support programs has changed during the pandemic?

The pandemic has been very difficult. People have been isolated from their loved ones, and the family violence, addictions and mental health issues have escalated, increasing the need for addiction support programs.

As a whole, how important do you think it is to have programs like the ones offered by the centre?

Programs like ours assist in bringing back healing and forgiveness to help families start living healthier lives mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Tech upgrades at the Centre

In the Spring of 2021, the Centre began working with BrickHost, a technical services provider based in Thunder Bay. BrickHost has worked remotely and on-site with the Centre to improve existing network infrastructure and assist in creating safe ways to deliver services in the era of Covid-19. With improved network speeds and reliability, staff are able to access information remotely and clients are able to safely access a broader range of treatment resources safely.

Having a background in working with agencies reporting to various levels of government, BrickHost is working with the Centre to streamline and digitize the sharing of information to funders and appropriate government departments. Staff development will continue with training and ongoing projects to improve work-flows, allowing more time to be spent on client focused activities and efforts.

Working with KNet to maximize the existing fiber internet connection, a Starlink backup Internet connection will be installed in 2022. With improved Internet speeds, the Centre will be able to widen the range of telemedicine options, allowing for access to a wider range of professionals and counsellors. This is new capability will also allow for supportive aftercare throughout the healing journey.

With a solid foundation now established, the Centre is well positioned to begin a new initiative to participate in Indigenous diversion from the criminal justice system. Plans are also underway to expand programming to offer a "Fresh Start" where clients can earn certificates with the assistance of the Centre. These offerings would not be possible without reliable technology and support.



More new developments

The last few months the Treatment Centre has received a number of new upgrades that will help us modernize our facility and provide an even better service. In addition to the Centre recently upgrading to fibre internet capabilities, which will allow for better reporting and outreach, the Centre also installed a new back up generator. Two local young men were also trained on how to maintain and operate the new system. This generator will help alleviate some power demand in the case of an emergency and will be a backup place to warm and cook food if necessary.



Patients will also benefit from the relationship that has been established with Ekosi Health wherein the Centre's leadership team and Ekosi Health have proactively collaborated to lay the groundwork for the innovative delivery of additional harm reduction-oriented health care services. The Ekosi Health team uses an evidence-based and evidence-informed model of health care which incorporates primary care, addiction and harm reduction, social work, and other disciplines to create a total Circle of Care for patients.

What the new upgrades and development provide

Reflecting on all the new upgrades, William Kaminawash said, "It has been an exciting time we continue to improve the services we offer. Our new fibre capabilities has helped us modernize our procedures and the new backup generator will ensure our services can continue at peak capability, even in the coldest winter months." Talking about the new ambulance donation, he said, "We are so grateful for the generosity Rainy River District Social Services. This is something the Centre and community has needed for a long time with the new First Responders Training happening soon, we will be able to provide an even safer experience."

Speaking to CBC News about the ambulance donation, he said, "This is something that I've never seen up north, especially in a remote community. When the opportunity was presented to us, we seized it. It is a lifeline."

In a media release, Buhler-Moore First Aid Services said with the donation, Muskrat Dam is the first northern Indigenous community to have its own ambulance and first response team.



Getting into the spirit of the holidays

In mid-November, clients and staff got the early Christmas spirit as Belinda Harper and Mildred Thunder ran a workshop on making Christmas wreaths. Everyone was able to take their wreath home, and four wreaths were presented to guests visiting from Bearskin Lake.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The important work done at Rev. Tommy Beardy Treatment Centre has been made possible with the help of our supporters.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Interested in getting involved in the work done at the Treatment Centre?

We offer great volunteer opportunities!

We welcome all inquiries about the Treatment Centre and will work with you to find a volunteer role that best suits your skills.



OUR SERVICES

The Centre runs a six week program which includes:

- Pre-treatment at the community level
- Orientation
- Assessment
- Understanding the disease
- Strengthening relationships
- Healing memories
- After-care and follow-up for one year



Treatment is divided into four categories:

- Toddler Learning Centre
- Student Learning Centre
- Young Adult Program
- Adult Program

Unique Components

- Return to Our Roots
- Land-based learning

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

The Rev. Tommy Beardy Family Treatment Centre is a registered charity and welcomes donations of any size to help better serve the community. Donations go towards improving our programs and facilities to ensure our participants achieve success through our program.

To learn about donating to the Treatment Centre contact the Centre at the address below.

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