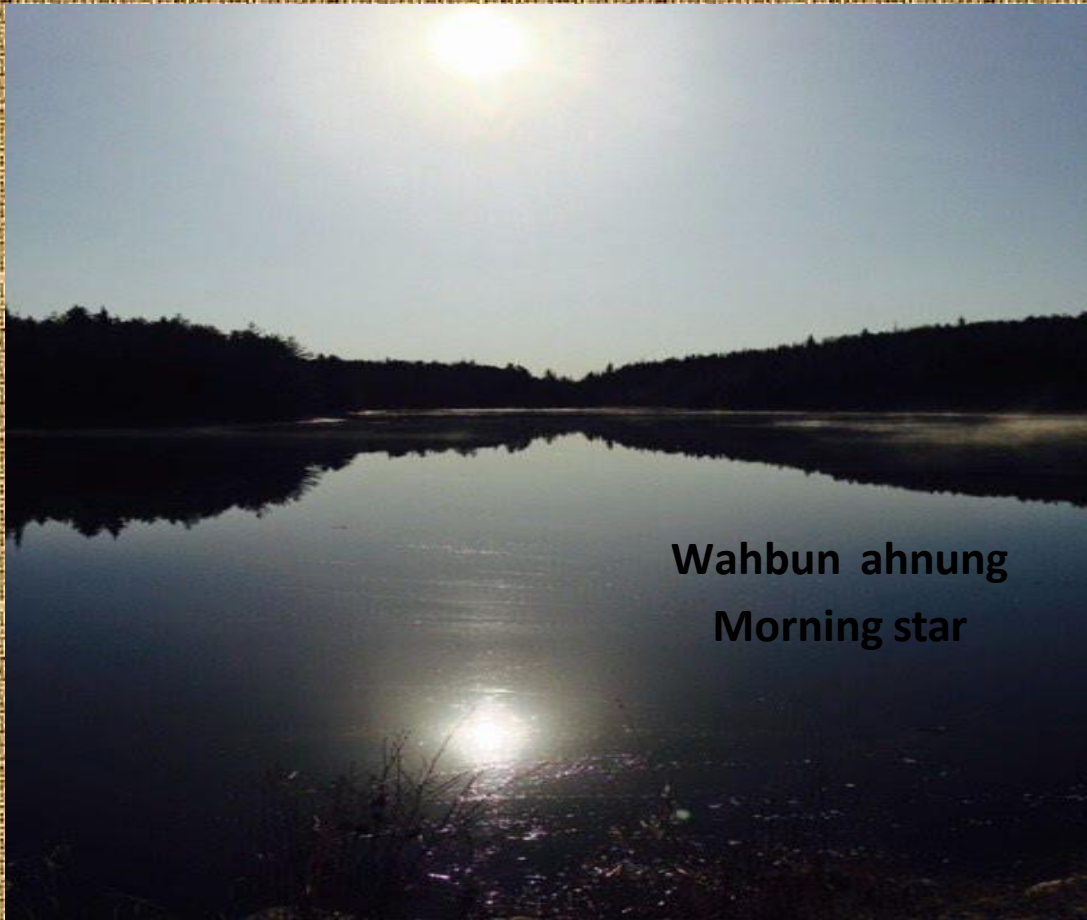


Good morning!



Wahbun ahnung  
Morning star

Lauri-Ann Marshall  
*-acknowledgements*



Pizhew dotem  
Lynx clan



# The Arduous Journey of Grassy Narrows Mercury Sufferers

*Stand up for what you  
believe in, even if it  
means standing alone.*



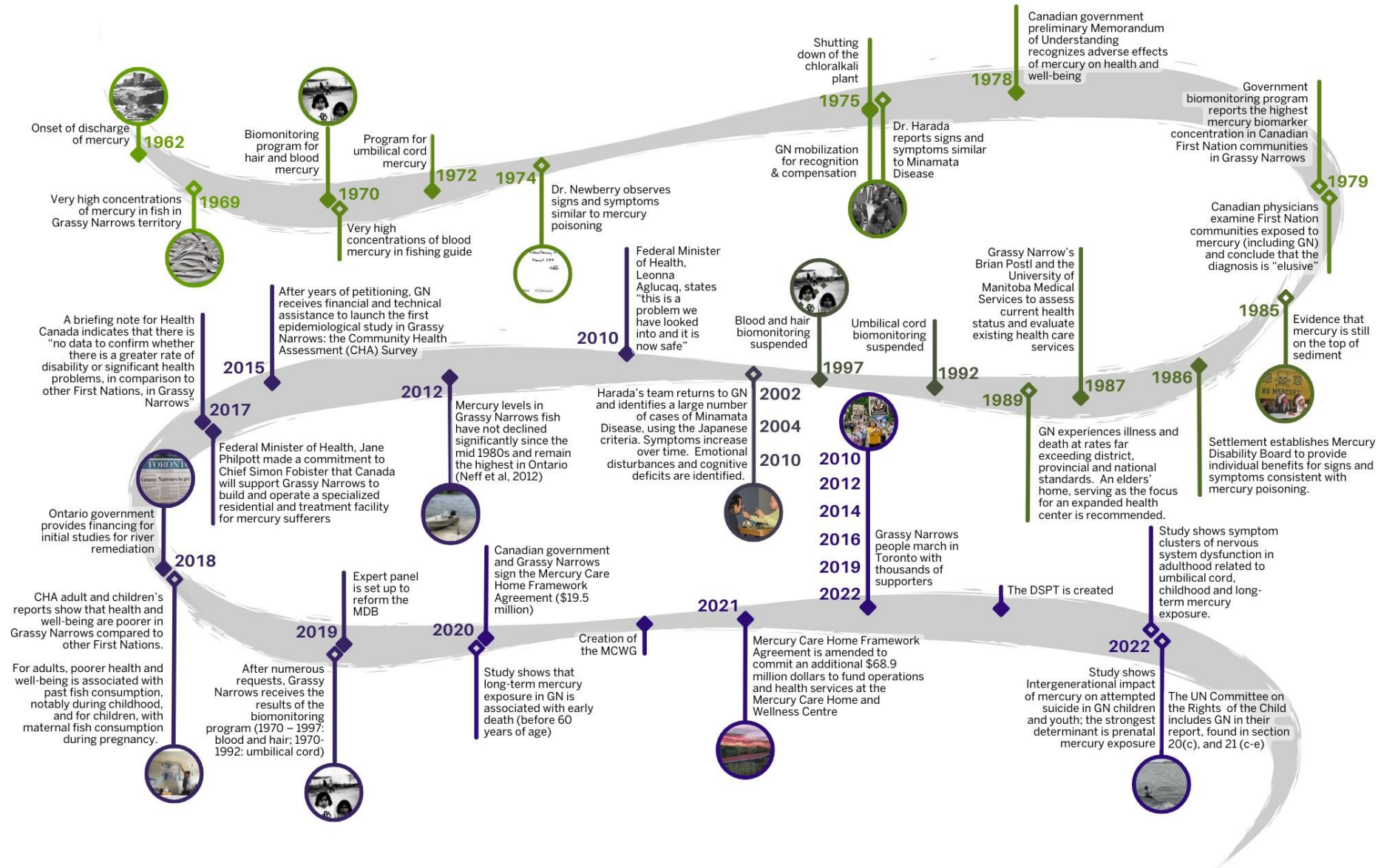
# Critical (recent) milestones in the Mercury Care Home Journey

- **Hunger Strike by the late Steve Fobister-2014**
- **Minister Jane Philpott's commitment to the late Chief Simon Fobister-2017**
- **MCH Feasibility Study 2018**
- **CHA Adult/Child 2018/19**
- **MCH Functional Plan**
- **Framework Agreement 2020**
- **Niibin Study**
- **Framework Agreement Amendment 2021**
- **Detailed Services Plan 2023**





Figure 1. Historic timeline of events leading up to the establishment of the Mercury Care Home and Wellness Centre





# What is the source/cause of Mercury Poisoning in Grassy Narrows Community members?

**Eat fish, choose wisely**  
**amo giigoo, weweni onaabam**

General tips for Northwestern Ontario dibaabanjigewinan

**Eat regularly**  
amo ayaagoo

**Eat less regularly**  
amo haagii nigeonding

**Eat rarely: choose smaller fish**  
amo ayaagii; odaagin gas agashiwirad

Eat regularly (amo ayaagoo)	Eat less regularly (amo haagii nigeonding)	Eat rarely (amo ayaagii; odaagin gas agashiwirad)
Rock Bass Yellow Perch Chinook Carp White Sucker Lake Whitefish	Rock Bass Ling Redhorse Sucker Labe Trout Northern Pike Muskellunge (smaller than 30 inches) Lake Sturgeon (smaller than 30 inches)	Smallmouth Bass Sauger Walleye Muskellunge (larger than 30 inches) Lake Sturgeon (larger than 30 inches)

**Reduce contaminants by wii agaasitoo yin pichibowinan**

1. Choosing smaller fish  
1. odaagin gas agashiwirad giigooag
2. Removing fillet  
2. wawichid pichigishen oniyawin
3. Removing skin and fat along the side and belly  
3. gishkishen pishagizom oshagayen gaape imas agigian imas onicidaag
4. Cooking on a rack or grill to let fat drip away  
4. gishkoo agii oshagayen oshagayen oshagayen

For lake- or river-specific advice, visit [ontario.ca/fishguide](http://ontario.ca/fishguide)  
ortaa makawhiinaam - kishindamaagowiziwin, lhan ontario.ca/fishguide



# Some of the Health impacts of Mercury Poisoning

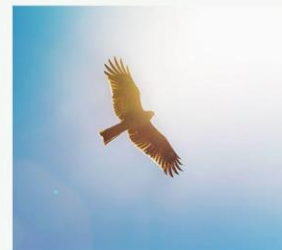
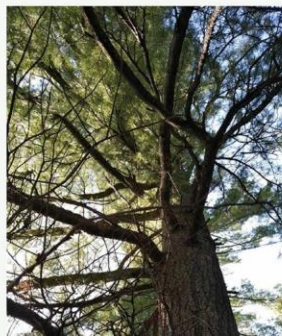
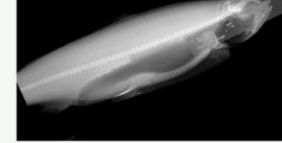
- ❖ Neurological-numbness, tingling & tremors
- ❖ Vision-visual field constriction
- ❖ Hearing deficit
- ❖ Impaired Speech
- ❖ Difficulty Swallowing
- ❖ Cognitive Impairment
- ❖ Compounding Comorbidities
- ❖ Premature mortality
- ❖ Youth suicidal ideation







MCH-vision to reality





# Site of the Mercury Care Home



















1 MAIN FLOOR PLAN  
A203 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"















# Access to Care at the Mercury Care Home

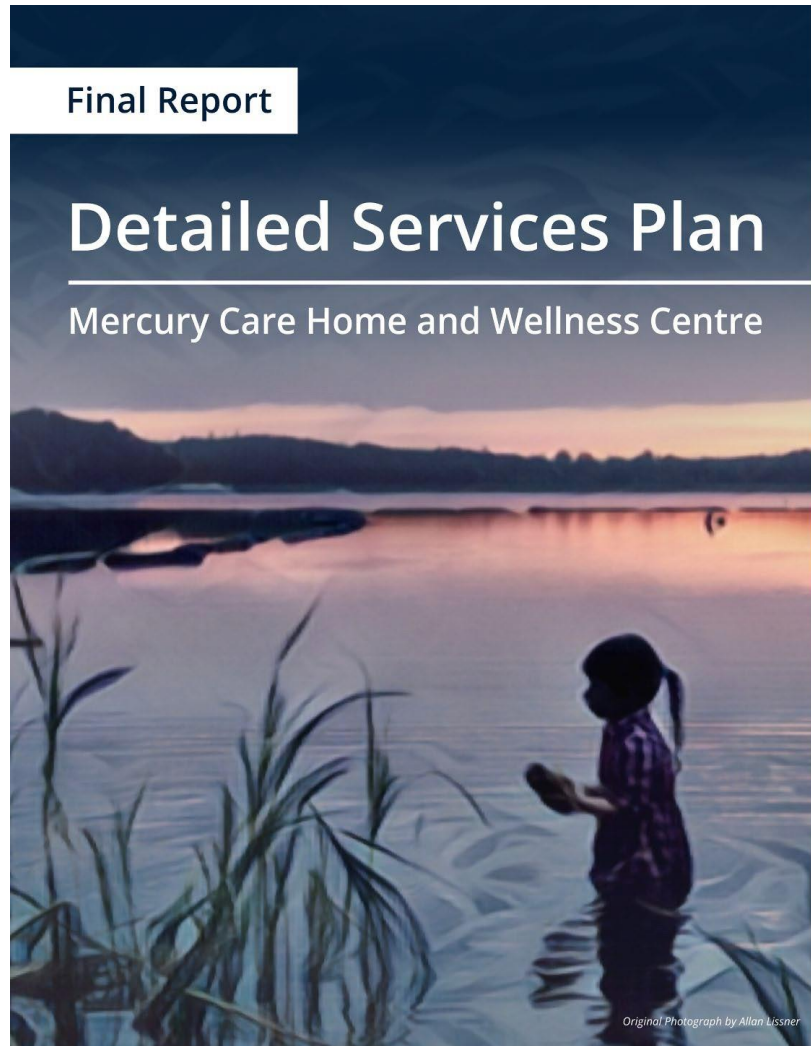
- **Access for all Grassy Narrows Community members**
- **Unlike Mercury Disability Board Compensation “scoring grid”**
- **Specialized Care focused on prevention and early intervention to support optimal outcomes for mercury sufferers**



# Grassy Narrows Mercury Care Home

- **22 inpatient/resident beds: 18 single and 2 double occupancy rooms-long stay, respite & palliative care**
- **Offering Traditional and Western medicine**
- **Robust ambulatory care services inclusive of in-person and telemedicine platforms delivered by a core team of specialists and allied health care professionals**
- **Comprehensive Rehabilitation Department-OT,PT,RT**
- **Community programming i.e. Meals on Wheels**





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Dr. Donna Mergler, environmental health

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Dr. Suvendrini Lena, neurologist

Dr. Chantelle Richmond, Indigenous health and environment

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Submitted to and accepted by

Asubpeeschoseewagong Anishinabek

June 29, 2023



The DSPT expresses its gratitude to all of the contributors to this report

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- Nel Wieman
- Ashley White
- Robert Williamson



*The DSPT expresses its support for the Grassy Narrows community, who are the real experts on the impact of mercury and who carried the MCH project for many decades.*



## Mercury Care Home and Wellness Centre

- Open access to any Grassy Narrows community member, residing on- or off-reserve, who self-identifies as a mercury sufferer
- Support for navigating the services and initial assessment of physical, mental, spiritual and social needs
- Continuity of trauma-informed care for inpatients, outpatients and the community

## Community wellness

- Guarantee of a culturally-safe and culturally-adapted environment
- Support for the inter-connectedness of individuals, families and the environment
- Options for integrated Indigenous traditional healing practices
- Broad dissemination of information on the impact of mercury and course of actions

## Medical Services

- Timely intake
- Comprehensive and wholistic assessment
- Team-based culturally appropriate case management
- Referrals to consulting specialists

## Resident Care

- 24/7 highest standard care and services for persons with differing levels of moderate-severe impairment
- Respite
- End of life accompaniment

## Allied Health Services

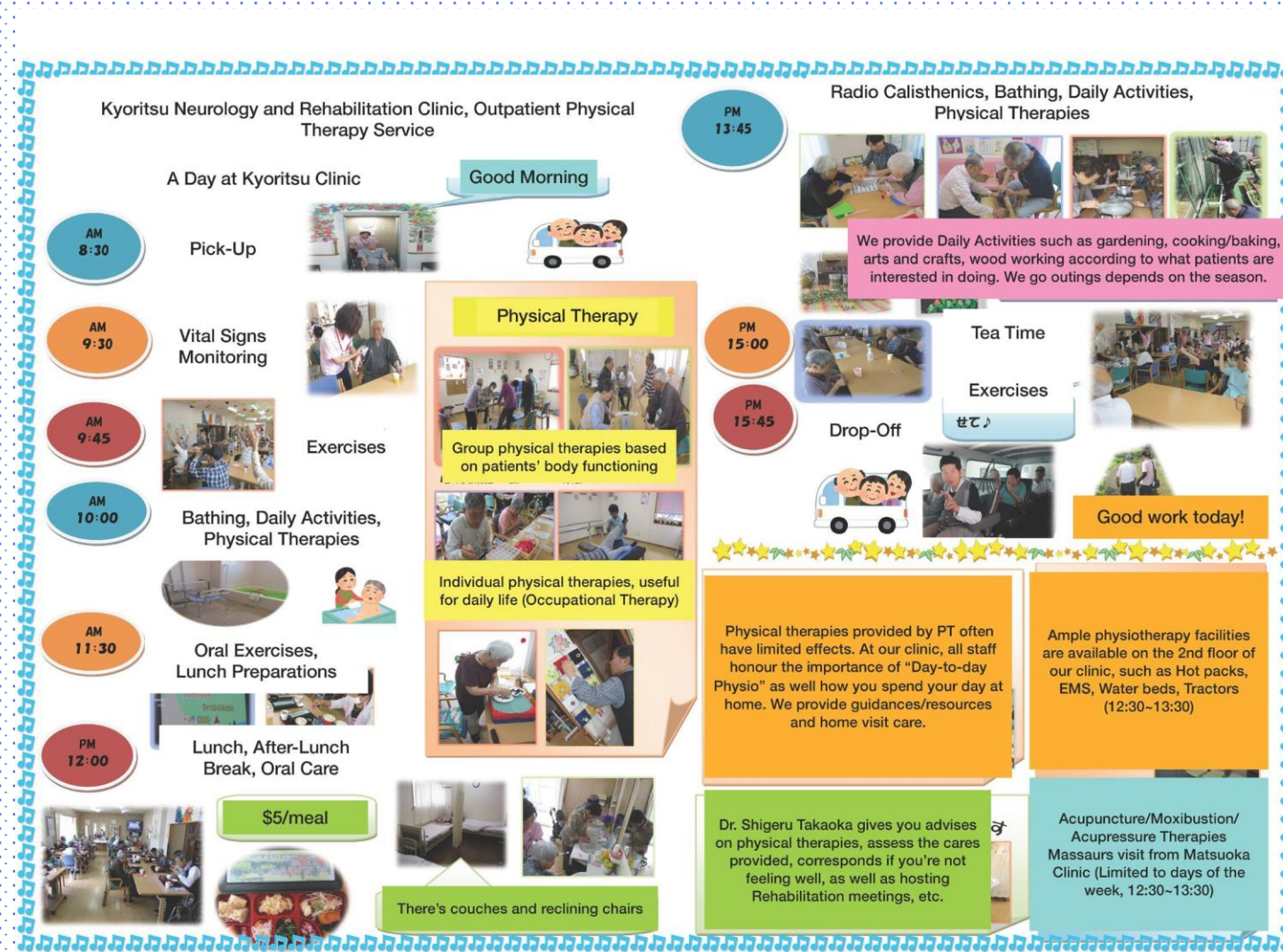
- Specific assessments
- Individual and collective therapy and rehabilitation
- Tools and strategies for optimal autonomy and functioning

## Program design and quality improvement

- Evidence-based clinical approaches and community-driven needs and grounded traditional knowledge
- Evaluation of program impact using standardized tools
- Continuous and confidential community feedback collection
- Iterative program revision



# Oral Health Care-Kyoritsu Day Program





## 62 YEAR OLD MAN

*Spends much time on a boat or in the bush, exercising his rights to connect to the land and water in his territory as he has done his whole life. Interested in both Traditional and Western forms of healing. Has to travel long distances to see specialists in Thunder Bay or Winnipeg, but fails to find satisfying diagnosis and treatment that improves his quality of life. Attends ceremonies once or twice a year and believes that nothing helps a cold better than Swamp Tea.*

### Primary Care Assessment

Fatigue, impaired memory and concentration, anxiety, impaired visual fields, impaired smell, taste, progressive difficulty chewing and speaking, muscle cramps and weakness, sensory loss, mild ataxia and disequilibrium

### Related Co-Morbidities

Previously diagnosed with diabetes, arrhythmia, high blood pressure

### Potential Specialist Needs

Neurology, Psychiatry, Internal medicine, Cardiology, Endocrinology

### Allied Health Therapy Needs

Speech/Language Therapy, Cognitive Therapy, Optometry and Low Visual Rehabilitation, Diet Counselling, Oral Health Care, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy

### Traditional Care Needs

Herbalist, spiritual guidance, land based/activity-based rehabilitation therapy, traditional nutrition





# Enhancing Community Training and Education Opportunities





# Partners Supporting Success!

- Community engagement
- Tapping into existing funding envelopes i.e. Intro to Microsoft Office
- Striking PSS Committee with key partners
- Creating the ASK-SAO funding for PSW Program
- Academic Upgrading
- Future plans for Registered Practical Nursing





# Celebrating success!

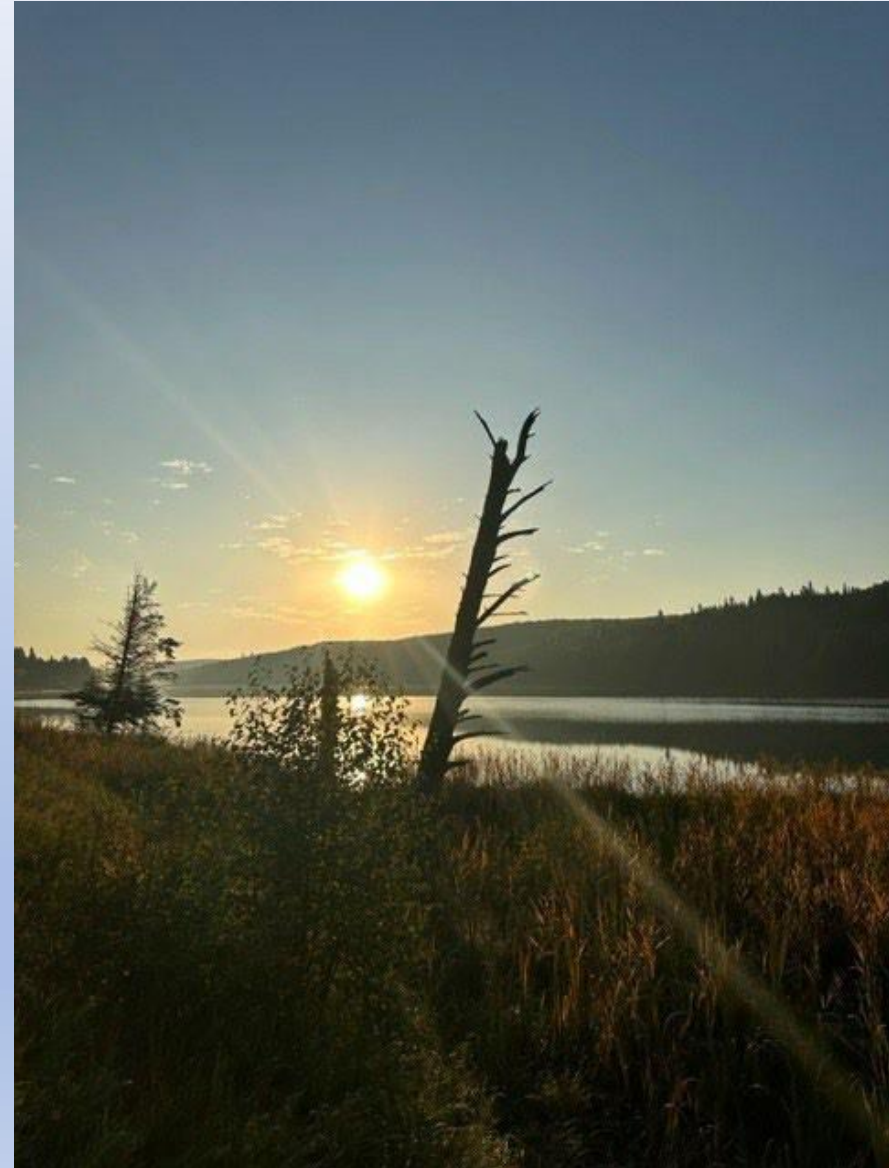




Raising awareness  
to support optimal  
outcomes for all.

When we strive to become  
better than we are, everything  
around us becomes better too”

*-Paul Coelho*





# Additional resources

- **1. CBC The National April, 2010 by Peter Wall (11:29)**
  - <https://youtu.be/MzKza4IP-uo>
- **2. PSAC interview video series, 2016**
  - The late Chief Simon Fobister (13:09)
    - <https://youtu.be/PjymBS6KSPY>
  - The late Steve Fobister Sr. (10:58)
    - <https://youtu.be/u03FwaCyyW4>
  - Judy Da Silva (11:04)
    - <https://youtu.be/X8XTY8Qny-s>
- **3. The Amnesty International: The youth rising up against Canada's mercury crisis, Nov. 2019 (4:31)**
  - <https://youtu.be/JgasHx0pJxM>
- **4. Home to Me youth music video (5:13)**
  - <https://youtu.be/EgaYz8YWsO8>
- **5. Scars of Mercury by Tadashi Orui and Sou Media. (1:30:02E)**
  - <https://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/6412/The-Scars-Of-Mercury>
- **6. Lancet Article Premature Mortality**
  - [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(20\)30057-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(20)30057-7/fulltext)
- **7. Intergeneration analysis-Elevated risk of Suicide in Grassy Narrows Youth**
  - <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/full/10.1289/EHP11301>





# Questions?





# Thank you!

**“The secret of our success is that  
we never, never give up.”**

**Wilma Mankiller (1945-2010)**

