



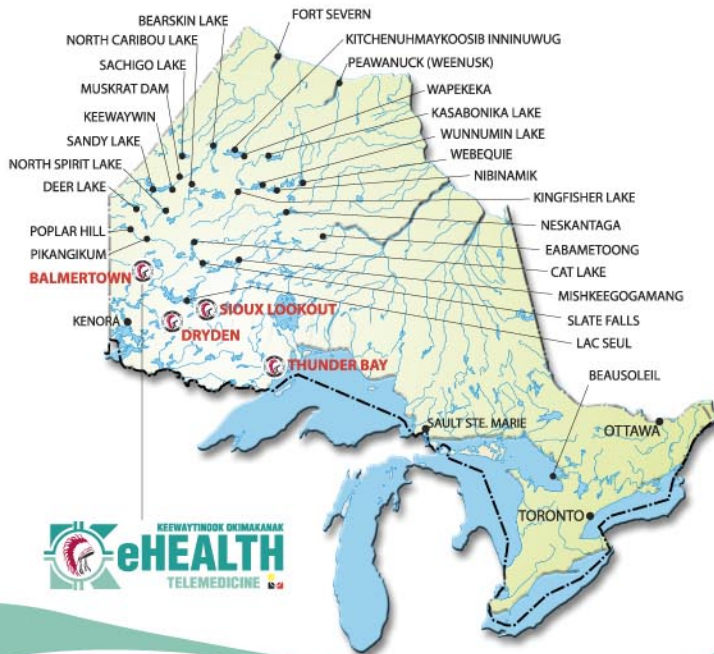
KO eHealth Open House at Bearskin Lake First Nation



North Spirit Lake First Nation

"Over the years we have seen how telemedicine has improved access to health care services within our communities. These Services combined with community based health services are helping us to improve our overall health"

KO Chair



KO eHEALTH TELEMEDICINE

Who are we?



Who Is Keewatinook Okimakanak, and what services are provided by the KO eHealth system?

KO Telemedicine...transforming the way you receive health care.



Who Is Keewatinook Okimakanak, and what services are provided by the KO eHealth system?

Background

As the year 2000 approached, the Chiefs of KO were becoming increasingly frustrated with the few existing options for health care delivery as provided by the government of Canada. The population in KO communities was increasing, overall health status was declining, and other challenges seemed to regularly set back efforts at improvements to health service delivery at the local level in their remote community settings.

At the same time, KO Chiefs were one of the first groups to seize many of the rapidly evolving innovations in communications technology. Their goal was simple – to improve life and create community development opportunities together in their respective communities. Their fledgling Kuh-ke-nuh (K-Net) satellite communication network had already begun to provide fundamental communications capability (email, video-conferencing, and eventually internet browsing) for their member communities – several of which did not even enjoy conventional phone services before.

It was the logical next step for the progressive-minded KO community leaders to consider tele-medicine – the supported and *facilitated* carrying of medical services to a client in a remote setting from a medical provider many miles distant in an urban medical service centre. In 2002, Keewatinook Okimakanak eHealth (then Tele-health) was born.

Initially connecting the health centres in the six KO First Nations by video-conference to the KO offices and outside medical service sites, KO eHealth has since grown to include more than 26 partner First Nations. As a *Centre of Excellence in First Nations Telemedicine*, KO eHealth currently supports isolated and remote First Nations communities with a comprehensive integrated and facilitated clinical service carrier model.



KO eHealth Community Engagement visit to Bearskin Lake First Nation – March 2013. Band Councillors (left to right) Lefty Kam, George Kam and Robert Kam. Back Row KO eHealth staff (left to right) Donna Roberts, Clinical Services Coordinator; Wendy Sandberg, Telemedicine Informatics Educator; Orpah McKenzie, Director of KO eHealth Services.

Member communities have access to a full range of health professionals (Medical specialists/sub-specialists, General Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Occupational, Physio-and Speech and Language Therapists) via a secure and interoperable link with the Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN). In addition, KO eHealth distributes medical and health administrative, education, training and specialized First Nations programming. KO eHealth utilizes the Kuh-ke-Nah Network to operate its model of facilitated service delivery.

In 2006, KO eHealth was recognized by the Canadian Society of Telehealth and was the recipient of their *Award of Excellence in Telemedicine*.

In addition to facilitating medical consults conducted by outside specialists, KO eHealth has developed a number of program offerings to support and carry other health education, extended care and support services, and health training which benefit the overall well-being of KO eHealth member First Nations and their health staff and residents. These auxiliary offerings do not usually require a licensed medical provider, but they have proven themselves to be valuable to the local clients and community members alike because they have provided information or other services in an understandable and culturally sensitive manner.



Community Telemedicine Coordinator Carol Yellowhead demonstrates iDoc telemedicine technology with the assistance of Loretta Wabasse during a Open House at Nibinamik First Nation.

To learn more about KO eHealth - Telemedicine visit www.telemedicine.knet.ca

KO Telemedicine...transforming the way you receive health care.

Call us for more information 1.800.387.3740 ext# 1318