



Biindigen  
Well-Being Centre

Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services

De dwa da dehs nyes > Aboriginal Health  
Centre and McMaster University  
Department of Family Medicine

Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg



De dwa da dehs nye>s	Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg	Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services	McQuesten Community Hub	McMaster Department of Family Medicine
Primary Care	Licensed childcare for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school aged children	Creation of 80 – 100 rental units with a mixture of rents	Community Gardens	Primary care health clinic
Healthy Living Program		Unit sizes will be dependent on the community need	Boys and Girls Club	Care for children with specialized health needs – e.g. pediatric care, mental health care
Traditional Healing	Early ON Child and Family Centre (child and family supports), and outreach programs	from existing housing wait lists	Cooking Clubs	
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Program			Youth Programming	
Diabetes Education Program	Homelessness Prevention: case management, cultural life skill and food security programs.	Mixed rents will be available to accommodate people of varying incomes	Early Words	Undergraduate and postgraduate medical education of health professional learners including an immersive Indigenous health training program
Cultural Education and Outreach			Hamilton Public Library Book Mobile	
Aboriginal Patient Navigators	System-wide training (e.g.: Indigenous-led programming, cultural safety and awareness training)	Culturally appropriate service delivery and application process		
Child and Youth Mental Health Services				
Mental Health Youth Navigator		OAHS will property manage residential development		
Indigenous Housing Street Outreach	Food Bank			
	Youth Drop In and Camp programs			
	Youth Leadership Development			
	Culture and Language Revitalization			
	McQuesten Urban Farm			
Collaborative programming areas will include: Health promotion, early and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders child nutrition programming and information				



## The need:

**Data continues to show high disparities in health, social and economic outcomes facing Hamilton Indigenous people as well as residents of the McQuesten neighbourhood.**

### High poverty rates

- The poverty rate of First Nations residents in Hamilton is 29% which is higher than the average for First Nations in Ontario (24%) and the general population in Hamilton (16%).
- For First Nations children living in Hamilton, the poverty rate climbs to 37%, compared to 28% for First Nations in Ontario, and 21% for Hamilton's general population.
- First Nations seniors in Hamilton have a poverty rate of 20%, more than double the average for Hamilton's senior population (8%).
- The McQuesten neighbourhood's child poverty rate is 75%, almost triple the rate for the city as a whole. McQuesten's senior poverty rate is 28% compared to 17% for the city as a whole.

### Unacceptable access to health care

- 40% of the First Nations population in Hamilton rate their level of access to health care as fair or poor
- Identified health access barriers: long waiting lists (48%), lack of transportation (35%), not able to afford direct costs (32%), doctor not available (29%), and lack of trust in health care provider (24%).

*Data sources: National Household Survey, City of Hamilton. Canada Census*

### Health, social, mental and support services for the whole community

The location of the Biindigen Well-Being Centre in the McQuesten neighbourhood will give vulnerable residents with limited transportation means to easily access a full continuum of health and social services.

## The benefits

**Viewed through a system-lens, the benefits are obvious**

- **Meeting recognized need:** Target appropriate, responsive and culturally safe health and community services to meet the needs of urban Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals and their families
- **Highest quality care:** Maximize the high-quality population-based care already provided by the DAHC
- **Wrap around care:** Provide a true community-based continuum of health and social care and services with health care, childcare, housing services, recreational programs, after school programs, skills development and training programs, social programs and innovative neighborhood programs all located on one site in a neighbourhood with longstanding demonstrated need
- **Improved health and social outcomes:** Bring attention to population health and social needs in an integrated and coordinated continuum of care in the community
- **Teaching and learning culturally safe care:** Focus health professional learning on care that understands and can meet unique and complex needs in a culturally safe and appropriate way.
- **Integrated approach:** A leader in evolving attitudes and approaches to an integrated view of traditional and western health and social service models
- **Neighbourhood programs:** A true activity centre for the neighbourhood – non-existent at present
- **Shared efficiencies and value for money:** Shared capital investment in co-location will result in: capital, infrastructure and operational cost efficiencies, shared space for meeting areas and offices, shared resources and administrative and back office integration



## Partnership with the City of Hamilton

- February 2018, Hamilton City Council passed a unanimous motion to purchase the St. Helen School property to hold for De dwa da dehs nye>s.
- City of Hamilton took possession of the St. Helen Property on May 1, 2019.
- Signed the Agreement of Purchase and Sale with the City of Hamilton for the transfer of ownership to De dwa da dehs nye>s following the submission of a site plan amendment.
- City of Hamilton leading the Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment process. City of Hamilton will support the Biindigen Partnership through Site Plan Control approval.



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## **Next Steps**

- Due to size of the building for DAHC and McMaster the project has been split into 2 phases.
- We are undergoing a RFP process for a Prime Consultant/Architect, contract to be signed in coming few weeks
- Demolition of the School on the Property
- Undertaking the Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment processes followed by Site Plan Control.



