

THANKS TO YOU, SICK KIDS WILL FEEL CONNECTED AND SAFE.

Innovative programs: Indigenous Community Healing Space

As many as 60 percent of the 130,000+ kids treated at HSC Children's Hospital are Indigenous, many from remote and Northern communities. Chronic health conditions like heart and kidney disease disproportionately affect Indigenous kids, which means many spend years receiving care in the hospital.

Currently, there are few visible signs of Indigenous lands, cultural beliefs or worldview inside the hospital, which can impact how safe Indigenous children and their families feel. Feeling safe can help improve healing and recovery.

The Indigenous Community Healing Space is the first of a series of initiatives – led by Dr. Melanie Morris, a Métis pediatric surgeon and the first physician lead for Indigenous Health at HSC Children's – that is Indigenous-led and -imagined on the journey towards the serious commitment and challenge of reconciliation.

Through your support of the Indigenous Community Healing Space, you are helping to create a more welcoming, culturally safe environment and sensitive experience that will #GiveBetterFutures to Indigenous kids and their families.



Kids like Janessa (second from left), who, in 2020 had to move with her family to Winnipeg from Pukatawagan to get life-saving kidney treatment, and ultimately a kidney transplant. After many months in the city, Janessa got the all-clear to go back home to the community, activities and outdoors she loves so much.

"Janessa and the kidney are doing very well... she has named it 'Bob'," says Brenda, Janessa's mom. The Children's Hospital helped my child and gave her a chance to live a normal life again."

The Indigenous Community Healing Space is being designed as a place where kids and families feel safe, connect with each other, and nurture their whole self – physical, mental and spiritual – while away from their home community and cultural supports.

In conjunction with stakeholder groups of kids, families and Elders, an interdisciplinary team of experts from Indigenous Health, Child Health, Capital Planning and Facilities Management are confirming functional plans for the space.

By understanding exactly what kinds of activities are envisioned, the team, along with Indigenous designers, are identifying detailed specifications so the room can serve the widest range of sick children's needs (e.g. medical gases and oxygen; doors that can accommodate a hospital bed / stretcher) and intended activities (e.g. air handling for smudging, kitchen facilities for feasts, bookshelves and soft furnishings for story time).



Following functional planning and design, the project will be tendered, the space prepared and construction will begin in 2023. Staffing and programming requirements are also being assessed. You can look forward to an invitation to a ceremony celebrating construction kickoff, as well as opportunities to see the completed space.

Culturally safe and inclusive spaces like the Indigenous Community Healing Space are more important than ever. Your support is helping to lead, with a focus on reconciliation for the past and improved care for Indigenous children into the future.

Thank you for your generosity.

Your present can change their future.