

Nishnawbe Aski Nation  
ᐱᐣᐣᐣᐣᐣ ᐱᐣᐣ ᐱᐣᐣᐣᐣᐣ



# Relationship Accord

between

## Nishnawbe Aski Nation (“NAN”)

and

## Northern Ontario School of Medicine (“NOSM”)

(Collectively “the Parties”)

**WHEREAS**, the Sioux Lookout Area Chiefs Committee on Health (CCOH) and the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Chiefs issued a Declaration of Health and Public Health Emergency on February 24, 2016 in order to call attention to the ongoing crises at the community level and across the health care system within NAN Territory.

**WHEREAS**, NAN communities have issued and developed numerous declarations, recommendations, resolutions and studies providing specific and comprehensive solutions to the ongoing crises.

**WHEREAS**, First Nations in NAN territory are asserting their jurisdiction and control over health through the development of the NAN Health Transformation process with the goal of developing a new, responsive and system-wide approach to health for the NAN territory.

**WHEREAS**, the *Charter of Relationship Principles Governing Health System Transformation in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Territory* marks the commitment of NAN, Ontario and Canada to work in a renewed multilateral nation to nation relationship with a commitment to immediate, medium, and long-term transformative change to the existing health system at the NAN community level.

**WHEREAS**, NAN and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) jointly acknowledge and support the full implementation of the United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) 94 Calls to Action and the Missing and Murdered Women and Girls (MMIWG) Inquiry’s Call for Justice.

**WHEREAS**, NOSM is a medical school that is a joint initiative between Lakehead University and Laurentian University with a vision of innovative education and research for a healthier north.

**WHEREAS**, NAN and the NOSM jointly acknowledge that capacity building is essential to the success of health transformation and a new health system for NAN territory.

**WHEREAS**, NAN and NOSM jointly acknowledge that innovative approaches and technological advances are essential to improving the current health care system for NAN territory while also critical to the building of a new NAN health system.

**WHEREAS**, NAN Health Transformation is a community led and community driven process whereby communities will be engaged at all levels so that their voices are heard and incorporated into community-centered programming.

**WHEREAS**, NAN and NOSM jointly acknowledge and respect NAN First Nations inherent rights, Aboriginal and Treaty rights and their protection under s.35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

**THEREFORE THE PARTIES AGREE THAT:**

1. The objective of this Relationship Accord is to guide the partnership between NAN and NOSM as they move forward in supporting the NAN Health Transformation process with the goal of developing mutually supported initiatives within NAN territory to build capacity and strengthen the health system.
2. NAN and NOSM intend to develop mutually supported initiatives within NAN territory to build capacity and transform the experiences of First Nations people within the health system.
3. The NAN Health Transformation process will be led by NAN First Nations.
4. The NOSM Strategic Plan and Curricular Renewal will be led by NOSM.
5. They will work in partnership to bring meaningful improvement in health care in NAN territory and support communities in reaching their priorities and objectives for improved health and health outcomes.

**THEREFORE THE PARTIES AGREE TO:**

1. Support and be guided by the NAN vision and principles for health transformation contained in the NAN Charter of Relationship Principles (Appendix “A”).
2. Respect principles of self-determination and the traditions and languages of the people of NAN territory.
1. Provide leadership and advocacy in the improvement of health outcomes and health equity by addressing barriers to safe and effective care in NAN territory.
2. Provide leadership and advocacy in building a foundational system, tools, data collection and infrastructure that are based on patient-centred innovation and the highest levels of safety and quality care.
3. Support activities related to recruitment and retention of more Indigenous People into the field of medicine and other health related careers.
4. Develop coordinated advocacy for working with health professions and government institutions related to physician services and practices within the health system.
5. Develop medical school curriculum that creates leaders that are culturally competent and committed to advocating for improved health and health services for First Nations people.
6. Provide leadership and advocacy in system change and establishing new standards of care that meet the unique needs and context of NAN First Nations.
7. Provide leadership and advocacy in system change and establishing new educational initiatives that meet the unique needs and context of the NOSM.
8. Foster the development of relationships and partnerships with other entities in support of the mutual objective articulated in this Relationship Accord.
9. Ensure NAN First Nations have access to any health data held by NOSM related to their community and ensure that any existing or future data collection or sharing is compliant with the principles of Ownership, Access, Control and Possession (OCAP).

**NON-DEROGATION**

For greater certainty, except to the extent that is otherwise agreed by the First Nations concerned, none of the provisions referred to in this Relationship Accord abrogates or derogates from:

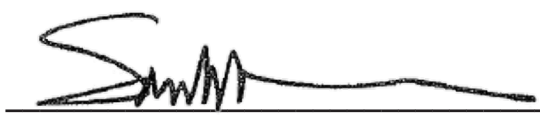
- a. The federal fiduciary responsibility for First Nations; or
- b. The First Nations, treaty or other rights or freedoms that pertain to the First Nations of NAN, including:
  - i. Any rights or freedoms that have been recognized by the Royal Proclamation of October 7, 1763,
  - ii. Any rights or freedoms that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired,
  - iii. Inherent right to self-government referred to in section 35.1 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and the powers and jurisdictions set out in self-government agreements, and
  - iv. Any rights or freedoms relating to the exercise or protection of their languages, cultures or traditions.

Signed this 24<sup>TH</sup> day of March, 2021.

On behalf of Nishnawbe Aski Nation

  
Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler

On behalf of Northern Ontario School of Medicine

  
Sarita Verma, Dean President & CEO