



## Rooted in the North

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) is more than a medical school; it is a strategy to address the health needs of Northern Ontarians, improve access to quality care, and contribute to the economic development of Northern Ontario. People, communities and organizations across the North had a dream that everyone in the region—no matter where they live—deserves access to quality health care. When NOSM was opened officially in 2005, our first staff, faculty, community partners and students tended to the seeds of that dream, based on the vision of what NOSM could become. NOSM is rooted in the North. We owe our progress in making Northern Ontario a healthier place to the many people and communities who have embraced our students, supported NOSM and advocated for improved health services in our region.

## Summit creates “made in the North” strategies to strengthen the physician workforce in the North

In January 2018, NOSM, HealthForceOntario and the North East and North West Local Health Integration Networks joined forces to host *Summit North: Building a Flourishing Physician Workforce*. With more than 130 health system partners in attendance, the summit focused on solutions in the short and long-term to help build a sustainable physician workforce, with a focus on family physicians in rural and remote communities. Building health workforce capacity in the North and introducing innovative models of care will lead to much improved access to care for patients and greater equity for rural communities.

## Cross-border project to improve opportunities for Indigenous Peoples

In April 2018, NOSM and University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth established a cross-border program to improve the health and educational opportunities of First Nations, Métis and Native Americans in Northern Ontario and Northern Minnesota. The program will provide an exchange among cross-border experts in Indigenous health profession programs and ideas on mentorship programs for medical students, residents and faculty, as well as compare models for health research and examine each school's ties to—and relationships with—Indigenous communities.

## National first: Remote First Nations residency stream

Matawa First Nations Management (MFNM), Eabametoong First Nation (EFN) and NOSM have created a unique two-year family medicine residency stream with the support of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care under the First Nations Health Action Plan. Together with MFNM, a selection process was designed that is equally driven by community determination of the most suitable resident physician and fulfilling the School's requirements for residency program entry. The selection process is significant, as NOSM, MFNM, and EFN collaborate at all stages. EFN community members make the final decision as to which resident will be admitted to the program and work in their community. This unique tripartite process—the first-of-its-kind in Canada—demonstrates elements of collaboration and community self-determination.

**94% of NOSM graduates** who have completed both their MD and residency programs at NOSM are now practising in Northern Ontario.

**92% of NOSM MD students** are from Northern Ontario. The remaining 8% are from other rural and remote areas of Canada.

Since 2011, **194 NOSM-educated family physicians** now practise in Northern Ontario, which translates to better access to care for approximately 228,000 Northern Ontarians.

**595 MD graduates** since 2009

In 2017, NOSM had an estimated **economic impact of \$122 - \$134 million** in Northern Ontario.

Overall spending in 2017 was estimated to **support 729 – 802 full-time equivalent jobs** in the region.

## Branching out

Over the past thirteen years, NOSM has taken root in the North. The majority of NOSM learners come from the North, and many stay in the North upon completion of their studies. Throughout their time at the School, they become intertwined with the ever-growing number of communities participating in their education. NOSM learners are educated in your community about the local culture, economic realities, and social determinants of health. This may be just what encourages them to return to practise in the North upon completion of their education.

## Growing toward a healthier North

The effort of those tending to the seeds of NOSM and the dream of quality health care for all in Northern Ontario is paying off. Our roots are strong, but we still have a long way to go before that dream comes fully to fruition. To continue gaining ground, we need to address the challenges we still face, including keeping up with the growing demand for culturally safe health care services in our region. Your continued efforts will allow us to flourish.

In order to thrive, we will focus on the following priorities over the next years, in line with our strategic plan:

- **Enriching Education Programs** to continue to produce skilled graduates who meet the needs of patients in Northern Ontario.
- **Strengthening Research Capacity** to better understand complex health issues affecting patients in the North.
- **Creating a Whole School Culture** to allow NOSM to continue to be successful and efficient as an organization.
- **Empowering Faculty Members** by providing solutions to the challenges they face as both teachers and clinicians.
- **Engaging Communities and Partners** to continue to work together to improve the health of the peoples and communities of the North.

Northern Ontario is a healthier place because of the many people, communities, and organizations that support NOSM and advocate for improved health services in our region.



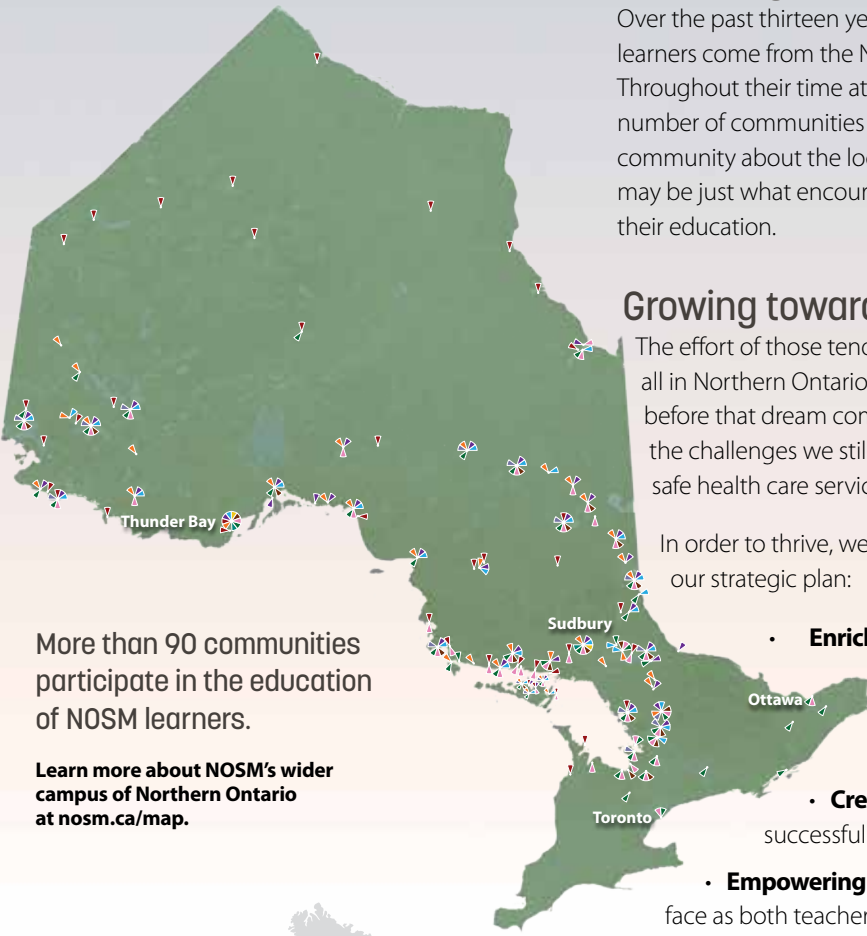
The Northern Ontario School of Medicine acknowledges that the entirety of the School's wider campus of Northern Ontario is the Ancestral Traditional Lands of the First Nations Peoples and Métis Peoples who resided alongside. The School also respectfully acknowledges that the medical school building at Laurentian University is located in the Robinson-Huron Treaty territory and at Lakehead University in the Robinson-Superior Treaty territory.

## Get involved

As a volunteer, you have the opportunity to make a lasting impact on the health of the peoples and communities of Northern Ontario. Visit [nosm.ca/volunteer](https://nosm.ca/volunteer) to learn how you can get involved and be a part of our ever growing success!

A healthier Northern Ontario is a dream we all share. To learn how you can lend your support to this cause, contact [advancement@nosm.ca](mailto:advancement@nosm.ca) call 807-766-7424 or 705-662-7154.

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine is a registered charity.  
Canadian Revenue Agency # 86466 0352 RR0001.



More than 90 communities participate in the education of NOSM learners.

Learn more about NOSM's wider campus of Northern Ontario at [nosm.ca/map](https://nosm.ca/map).

