The Northern Ontario School of Medicine: 10 Years of Working Together for a Healthier North

Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce Leaders Luncheon

Topic

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. The panel will consider NOSM’s impact on the recruitment and retention of physicians and other health-care professionals in the region over the past 10 years, as well as the other ways NOSM and its partners are making positive socioeconomic impact contributions to the communities of Northern Ontario.

Panellists:

Dr. Roger Strasser is a leader in the global reform of health professional education. Recognizing the importance of context and community in medical education and research, Dr. Strasser has gained an international reputation for developing and refining novel strategies to train health professionals in and for rural communities. One of the world’s foremost authorities in rural, socially accountable medical education, Dr. Strasser is the Dean of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.
Mr. Tim Pile, Secretary-Treasurer to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), has been a member of NOSM’s Board of Directors since 2010. He was elected to the PCMNO as Secretary Treasurer and represents the interests of Métis citizens in the Province of Ontario. He has also served on NOSM’s Aboriginal Reference Group (ARG) since the School’s inception. This group is an integral part of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, advising the Dean on all pertinent initiatives relating to Aboriginal health, research, education, and administration. It provides an important means through which members of Aboriginal communities in the North are able to have substantive input into the School’s operations and priorities.

Dr. Kim Varty, is a graduate of the NOSM Charter Class and completed her Family medicine residency in Thunder Bay. After practicing rural family medicine in Atikokan for three years, Dr. Varty has returned to Thunder Bay and is practicing at Fort William Clinic. She continues her involvement with NOSM as an Assistant Professor and Site Director for Thunder Bay Postgraduate Family Medicine.
Mr. Chuck Schmitt is the Physician Recruitment and Fundraising Coordinator with the Dryden Regional Health Centre; he has served in this position for the past 8 years and has seen what recruitment in the north has looked like pre and post NOSM. Mr. Schmitt has worked in many capacities to improve the quality of life for the residents of Dryden through his professional and volunteer commitments and is a self-described “Northern Optimist” and proud Lakehead graduate.

MODERATOR:

Chisholm Pothier

VP Communications & Engagement, Aboriginal Affairs and Government Relations at the TRHSC and Thunder Bay chamber of Commerce Board Member