



# Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin Inc.

Northern Peoples' Wellness

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Dr. Barry Lavallee Named Chief Executive Officer of Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin

**Treaty One Territory / Winnipeg, MB** - Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin (KIM) Inc. is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Barry Lavallee as CEO.

In place as Medical Advisor since May 2019, Dr. Lavallee provided much needed clinical and systems expertise at a time when **Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. (MKO)** was taking significant steps towards the establishment of a new northern First Nations led health transformation entity. **Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin Inc. (KIM)** was established by the MKO Chiefs Task Force on Health during an MKO Chiefs Assembly on Health in January of 2020.

**Chief Larson Anderson** of Norway House Cree Nation and Chair of KIM's Chiefs Task Force on Health stated, "First Nations leaders are already touting the positive impacts of his involvement to date. He's smart. He's connected. He pushes our concerns into the forefront. As Chiefs, we do the same, but the systems readily come to the table because of his high level of education and decades of experience as an Indigenous physician and a systems-educator. He holds them to account and they sit up and listen when he talks. This appointment solidifies our ambition to become leaders in Health Transformation for the north. We trust him to set in motion what we know is needed – First Nations community led health transformation."

"We know that while there are many long-standing issues around access to health services for Northern residents, we also know that our communities have the answers," stated **Grand Chief Garrison Settee**. "Having worked with Dr. Lavallee throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, I am thankful for the wisdom the Chiefs Task Force has shown in choosing such a passionate and dynamic Indigenous leader who will work in a strengths-based way to transform health while also holding the federal and provincial health systems and other systems to account."

**Sharon McKay**, KIM Program Manager noted, "We all know how impassioned Dr. Lavallee becomes when talking about what needs to be done to address racism and the many long-standing gaps in health care for Indigenous people everywhere. I have seen him influence decision-makers and am very proud of him. I think he is in the right place, at the right time."

"I am pleased to accept this opportunity to make a long-term positive impact on the health and well-being of First Nations citizens living in Northern Manitoba," said **Dr. Barry Lavallee**. "My past roles working in medicine, academics, and advocacy have provided me with a wide range of experiences, relationships, and knowledge to help prepare me for this work. I share my deep gratitude with the strong female leaders at MKO and KIM who have really laid the groundwork for establishing Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin. I look forward to working closely with these leaders, along with the First Nations leadership, in this important work we need to do together."