



**Keewatinohk Inniniw
Minoayawin Inc.**

Yathe Hotśj Dene 7 Edenąkane[nj | Northern Peoples' Wellness

CLINICAL SERVICES

- Visiting Professional Services -

vps@kimhealth.ca

ABOUT

Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin Inc.

Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin Inc. (KIM) was established in 2019 by the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) Chiefs Task Force on Health as a First Nations-led aggregate health transformation entity. KIM works with and on behalf of 23 northern First Nations to transform and transfer health and wellness services and improve health outcomes for First Nations people. KIM is committed to establishing a health-care system that will reflect the needs and priorities of the northern First Nations people wherever they reside in Manitoba.

Barren Lands First Nation
Bunibonibee Cree Nation
Fox Lake Cree Nation
God's Lake First Nation
Manto Sipi Cree Nation
Northlands Denesuline First Nation
Sayisi Dene First Nation
Shamattawa First Nation
Tataskweyak Cree Nation
War Lake First Nation
York Factory First Nation
Chemawawin Cree Nation

Marcel Colomb First Nation
Mathias Colomb Cree Nation
Misipawistik Cree Nation
Mosakahiken Cree Nation
Opaskwayak Cree Nation
Sapotaweyak Cree Nation
Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Norway House Cree Nation
O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation
Pimicikamak Cree Nation





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A strong team of primary care clinicians, including Master Physician Assistants, Master Nurse Practitioners, and community-trained providers, helps us move away from a model that relies on medical doctor centered care and instead supports a system that is flexible, responsive, and rooted in the needs of First Nations people.

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This is the foundation of First Nations-led health care.

Dr. Barry Lavallee
MD, CCFP, FCFP, FRCPSC (Hons), MCISc
Chief Executive Officer
Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin Inc.



How is KIM Improving Health Care?

In partnership with First Nations leadership, KIM developed the Visiting Professional Services (VPS) program. This program utilizes a team-based care approach, founded on three guiding pillars: First Nations sovereignty, First Nation-specific anti-racism, and improved access and responsiveness.

The following outcomes are already being achieved:

- **Better access to follow-ups, prescriptions, and referrals** - On site clinicians who know your health history can support you more consistently.
- **Support for the care you need most** - Whether it's managing chronic illness, supporting mental wellness, or addressing your health priorities, the primary-care team is here to respond.
- **Regular providers you can rely on** - Clinicians who return on a regular schedule and are committed to building trust and providing anti-First-Nations specific racism care.
- **Connected to the full KIM support network** - The Visiting Professional Services Programs links with services like harm reduction, point-of-care testing, and virtual supports for more complete care.

This program represents First Nations' control over health care. It's designed to reflect the priorities of each Nation and is delivered consistently and close to home. With the support of our clinical service partners, this model strengthens First Nations-led services across all participating Nations.

Visiting Professional Services (VPS)

Background

In 2024, the medical doctors who had been providing care under a provincial contract in two northern First Nations decided to end their service. This created a gap in primary care. KIM was asked by the affected First Nations and provincial government to respond.

As a result, KIM developed a team-based model of care which was designed to offer more flexibility, continuity, and support. Any Nation wanting VPS, has the choice to decide what kind of care they want.

Some Nations chose to move forward with KIM Clinical Service, now delivered through KIM's Visiting Professional Services. It brings together medical doctors, Master Physician Assistants, Master Nurse Practitioners and other clinicians to work as a team, with service accountable directly to the Nation through KIM.

Visiting Professional Services Guiding Pillars

At the heart of KIM's approach to Clinical Services are three guiding pillars: a commitment to **First Nations sovereignty**, which ensures that Nations lead and shape their own care; prioritizing **First Nation-specific anti-racism**, which demands respectful care; and **improved access and responsiveness**, so that clinical care meets people where they are, without delay or barriers. These pillars shape every partnership and decision we make.

Team-Based Care

Team-based care has long been a standard part of primary health services across Canada. The Visiting Professional Services model builds on this well-established practice, because physician-centered care is not the only way to deliver safe, effective health care.

KIM's approach to primary care teams is different because it focuses on realistic and achievable goals that prioritize the needs of First Nations.

Juke Settee
Diagnostic Support Worker
Pimicikamak Cree Nation



Primary Care Team:

KIM's VPS primary care team is a type of team-based care that is designed to be flexible and responsive. While it currently includes key roles such as Medical Doctors, Master Physician Assistants, and Master Nurse Practitioners, the team can expand to include pharmacists, paramedics, clinical assistants, Knowledge Keepers and traditional medicine based on First Nations' needs. This team-based model means easier access to more care than a single medical doctor can offer alone. Community members benefit from a range of expertise and consistent support while the clinicians are on site.

A key part of the primary care team is the **Visiting Professional Support Service**, an off-site team that handles administrative tasks, allowing clinicians to focus on patient care. This is unique to KIM Clinical Service. Their support increases access and keeps care efficient.

Master Physician Assistants

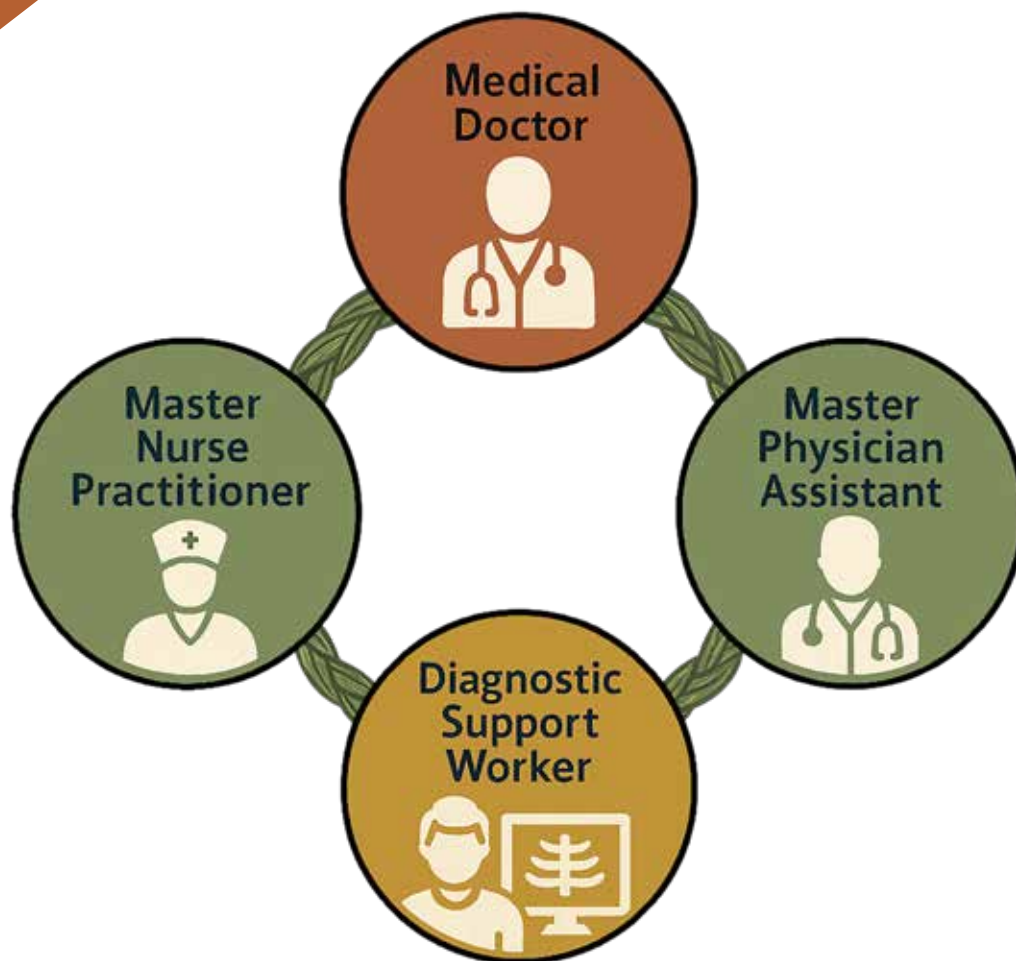
Master Physician Assistants (MPAs) are highly trained members of the primary-care team who help make it easier for people to get the care they need. They are trained in general medicine at the Master's level and work closely with doctors, Nurse Practitioners, pharmacists, paramedics and nurses to provide comprehensive care.

Master Nurse Practitioners

Master Nurse Practitioners (MNPs) are experienced members of the primary care team. MNPs are highly trained clinicians who play a vital role in the health-care system, and are becoming more common in health centers and nursing stations located in northern First Nations. With advanced education and years of nursing experience, MNPs are licensed to practice as part of a primary-care team.

Carey Rots
Master Physician Assistant
Pimicikamak Cree Nation





Medical Doctors

Medical Doctors (Physicians) bring a lot of clinical experience and generalized medical training to the primary-care team. In Manitoba and across Canada, physicians are licensed to diagnose and treat a full range of medical conditions, and often lead complex care planning for individuals and families.

Diagnostic Support Worker

The Diagnostic Support Worker (DSW) is a unique frontline role developed by KIM in partnership with Red River College Polytechnic to grow health-care capacity directly within First Nations. Diagnostic Support Workers are equipped with skills in ECG, phlebotomy, and radiographic procedures. As part of the primary care team, DSWs reduce the burden on nurses, improve access to diagnostics and increase the support system of primary-care teams. This is unique to KIM Clinical Services.



Jennifer Kakegamic
Clinical Services
Program Coordinator
Sandy Lake First Nation



Roanna Hall
Clinical Services
Program Coordinator
Pinaymootang First Nation






















The Visiting Professional Support Service

Visiting Professional Support Service (VPSS) is an innovative, Winnipeg-based clinical administration team that works behind the scenes. By handling time-consuming administrative tasks, like prescription renewals, specialist referrals, test follow-ups, and medical documentation, this program allows clinicians to focus their time and energy where it matters most; with patients.

This off-site support system helps ensure that every hour spent in the community is dedicated to care, not paperwork. The VPSS is part of the primary care team approach. It's a forward-thinking model designed to improve access, increase efficiency, and honour KIM's commitment to delivering high-quality health care.

Different Roles, One Team

Medical Doctors, Master Physician Assistants, and Master Nurse Practitioners are health-care leaders that provide comparable care, diagnosing, prescribing, and treating. Together, they form a strong, united team supporting your health.

	Master Physician Assistant	Master Nurse Practitioner	Medical Doctor
Years of Education (min)	6	6	7 (Usually 9-13)
Availability			
Primary Care			
Prescribe			
Consults & Medevac			
Emergency Care			
Order Tests			
Lifesaving Procedures			

Virtual Support Services

On-Call Program

KIM's **On-Call Program** provides nurses in participating northern First Nations with round-the-clock medical support. Physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners are available 24/7/365 to consult directly with nursing staff.

Through this service, nurses can:

- Review patient cases, x-rays, lab results, and ECGs with a clinician.
- Access remote medical records to support informed care.
- Arrange referrals and order tests without delays.
- Connect with specialists or emergency services in real time.

This system strengthens nursing stations by giving them continuous backup, even when medical providers are not on site. It improves access to care, speeds up decision-making, and keeps community members connected to higher levels of support.

Community leadership also have direct access to the On-Call Program to raise urgent health concerns.

STARS Partnership

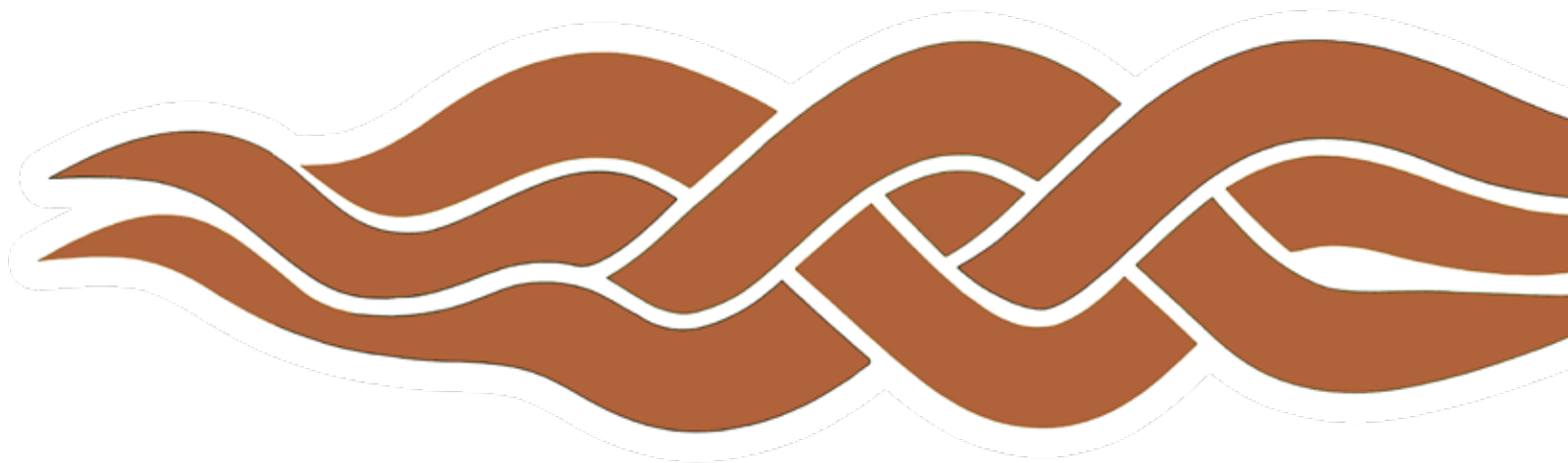
KIM has partnered with the **Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service (STARS)** to add a new layer of critical care support. STARS provides rapid access to critical care physicians for the sickest or most severely injured patients.



With this partnership, nurses and clinicians can:

- Get immediate guidance on diagnosis, stabilization, and treatment.
- Coordinate urgent medical transport with provincial partners.
- Access critical care advice within 30–60 seconds by phone, with video consultations coming soon.

The STARS partnership begins with two communities in October 2025.



KIM Clinical Services Partnerships

KIM's Clinical Services is deeply embedded in a network of strong partnerships across provincial, federal, academic, and clinical institutions. Rather than operating in isolation, KIM Clinical Services actively builds and strengthens bridges between First Nations and existing health systems.

These partnerships include:

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|---|---|
| 1. Northern Regional Health Authority | 10. Virtual Emergency Care & Transfer Resource Service (VECTRS) |
| 2. Thompson General Hospital | 11. STARS |
| 3. First Nations & Inuit Health Branch | 12. University of Manitoba Clinical Learning & Simulation Facility (CLSF) |
| 4. Indigenous Services Canada | 13. Ongomiizwin Health Services (OHS) |
| 5. Shared Health Manitoba | 14. Red River Polytechnic |
| 6. College of Physicians & Surgeons of Manitoba | 15. Thompson Clinic |
| 7. College of Paramedics of Manitoba | |
| 8. College of Pharmacists of Manitoba | |
| 9. College of Nurses of Manitoba | |



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Contact Us

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Please contact us if you would like more information about the VPS model.