



**Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Foundation**

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**Northern
Cancer Fund**



**Northern
Cardiac Fund**



**Health Sciences
Discovery Fund**

December 2018

Via Email

Town of Fort Frances
320 Portage Ave.
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9
Attn: Doug Brown, CAO

Dear Mr. Brown,

Imagine being told you have blockages in three of your coronary arteries and that you require surgery imminently to save your life. A scary enough thought by itself, isn't it? Now imagine being told you need to travel hundreds of kilometres away from home to obtain this life-saving surgery, potentially without the support of family or friends. Suddenly the entire process seems completely overwhelming.

However, this is the reality facing patients who need coronary artery bypass surgery right now in Northwestern Ontario. Sometimes the physical or financial limitations of travel are too much to bear and patients choose not to have surgery, or sadly, they pass away before they make it to another centre.

Furthermore, one of the most critical problems our region faces is our high rate of amputations (three times the provincial average), mostly due to untreated vascular disease. This is particularly a problem that impacts our Indigenous population and that requires immediate attention.

It's our time to change our current reality. It's time to bring a full cardiovascular surgery program to Thunder Bay and support the 1,000 patients annually who will benefit from having cardiac or vascular surgery close to home. With the development of a cardiovascular surgery program, and your support, we can make a real difference to the lives of people across Northwestern Ontario, sparing limbs and saving lives.

In order to make this program successful, it will require a minimum investment of \$32M to purchase equipment and to restructure our operating rooms at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. This is no small task, but upon completion, the people of Northwestern Ontario will finally have this critically important surgical program.

We would like to respectfully propose that you and your Council consider supporting the cardiovascular surgery program. This past spring, The Municipality of Shuniah generously committed \$10,000 pledged over 5 years, which works out to only \$0.91 per household per year in that Municipality; a figure that would be very similar in many communities. In early 2019, we will reach out to you to plan a date and time to make a presentation to your Council, with your permission. This is a huge step forward in expanding critical, life- and limb-saving health care for Northwestern Ontario and it's going to take all of us living here to make this a reality.

Should you require more information or any clarification please do not hesitate to contact Cindy Kawahara at (807) 684-7107 (direct line) or by email at kawaharc@tbh.net.

Sincerely,

Wendy Landry, Cabinet Member
Our Hearts at Home
Cardiovascular Surgery Campaign

Barry Streib, Director
Thunder Bay Regional Health
Sciences Foundation