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Philanthropic Areas of Support

Innovative Education and Research for a Healthier North.

About NOSM University

Since its inception, NOSM University has demonstrated its commitment to improving the health of the people and communities of Northern Ontario. NOSM University is deeply engaged with the Indigenous and Francophone communities of Northern Ontario as part of its mandate to be accountable to the cultural diversity of the region. We admit applicants who, in most cases, already have a lived experience and deeper understanding of the North, of the unique health challenges Northern Ontarians face, and of the need for culturally appropriate care. Guided by our five core values of respect, inclusiveness, social accountability, collaboration and innovation, NOSM University is continually fulfilling our mission to educate high-quality physicians and health professionals, and to become internationally recognized as a leader in distributed, learning-centered, community-engaged medical education and research.

NOSM University offers a range of educational programs spanning undergraduate medical education, postgraduate and continuing professional phases of physician training as well as a number of health professions such as registered dietitians and physician assistants.

Students are learning in large and small communities across Northern Ontario. This reflects the profoundly distributed and community-engaged educational philosophy of the University that flows from its mandate to be responsive to the health-care needs of the people of Northern Ontario. The program areas include: MD program; residency programs; dietetics program; medical physics; Continuing Education and Professional Development; graduate studies; and, Health Sciences programs in partnership with other universities in Ontario.



Our Challenge

Despite our success in training health professionals for the north, Northern Ontario needs more than 350 doctors just to fill immediate shortages with almost 50 per cent of the current workforce poised to retire in the next five years.

As Canada's first-ever independent medical university, NOSM University is doing everything it can to help marshal doctors to where they're needed most.

NOSM University Students and Residents

Lightening the tuition load for all students, and leveling the playing field for those doing their residency is a priority.

Students at NOSM University graduate with nearly twice the debt of students at other medical schools in Canada. It's not because we're more expensive: it's because we recruit from the North, for the North, and typically, people in the region don't have access to the same financial and social means as students in the south.

Students can take on sizable bank loans to cover the cost of a medical education. However, many of those who go on to practise in the North ultimately make less money than their southern counterparts. Northern doctors must "handle it all," but operate under the same billing structure as doctors in dense urban areas who are surrounded by complementary medical resources that alleviate the care load. Helping to offset the cost of our programs is one way to incentivize graduates of NOSM University to stay in the North.

How your donation helps.

When you give to NOSM University you are:

- Telling 800,000 Ontarians that their health matters
- Championing Indigenous and Francophone health equity
- Backing future health-care workers who are more likely to stay in the North
- Improving access to quality health care
- Investing in a lean and fiscally accountable non-profit university
- Establishing an endowment that will benefit students in perpetuity
- Supporting a world-class medical and research university
- In the vanguard of people working toward health justice for Northern Ontario

Choose Your Impact: Support Key Priorities at NOSM University

MD Student Bursary

NOSM University is dedicated to training the next generation of doctors and health-care professionals in Northern Ontario. Our students deserve the same support as their peers at established Canadian medical schools with robust endowment funds. The NOSM University Student Endowment Fund alleviates some of the tuition burden for current MD students and, through careful management, will provide lasting support for future generations of medical students. Your contribution will make a meaningful difference today and for years to come.

Post Graduate Residency Award

Our research indicates that 94% of learners who complete both their MD and Residency at NOSM University choose to practise in Northern Ontario. In contrast, only 50% of those who only complete their undergraduate training remain in the region. This stark difference highlights the urgent need for support as we strive to address the critical shortage of doctors in Northern Ontario and ensure equitable, accessible health care.

To maximize the impact of our efforts, financial awards can be established to incentivize resident learners to continue their training and establish their practices in Northern Ontario. By investing in our future health-care professionals, we can build a healthier, more sustainable community for everyone. Join us in making a meaningful difference in the lives of both our residents and the people of Northern Ontario.

President's Visionary Fund (\$5M)

The President's Visionary Fund supports NOSM University's most urgent priorities and varies from year to year depending on the needs of the University. Projects might include the modernization of classrooms and other learning space, the purchase of supplies and equipment used in our teaching and research labs, or the costs of conference attendance for some of our deserving students.

Dietetic Practicum Program (\$1.5M)

Dietetic learners currently have no government- or university-supported financial aid. With 1 in 15 Registered Dietitian positions currently vacant in Northern Ontario, addressing the financial strain of unpaid practicums is vital to closing health-care gaps. By relieving some of the tuition costs through endowed bursaries, we can reduce learners' debt burden and enable them to fully focus on their education and future contributions to our communities.

Integrated Community Experience (ICE) Fund (\$3M)

Funding support to grow and sustain academic cultural immersion placements with our Indigenous community partners. The award-winning ICE placements are a crucial differentiator for NOSM University compared to all other medical schools in Canada. These four-week immersive placements in an Indigenous community provides MD students with opportunities to learn about culture and history and gain a first-hand understanding of health issues facing First Nations and Métis peoples. This experience teaches students about cultural respect, safety, the integration and acceptance of traditional medicines with western medicine.

While on placement, learners often engage with youth in the community in structured learning activities. The community experiences vary from community to community as they are tailored based on the community needs and what they want students to know about them. The clinical experiences also vary by community and can include; Healthy Babies Healthy Children program, home visiting, health checks, diabetes awareness, etc.

NOSM University currently has 42 Indigenous community partnerships who have signed long-term partnership agreements to host students. The long-term partnership provides a framework for both NOSM University and respective signatory to work in collaboration to ensure a successful placement for both community and students.



Dr. Gilles Arcand Centre for Health Equity (\$3M)

The Dr. Gilles Arcand Centre for Health Equity is a multidisciplinary centre of NOSM University dedicated to the improvement of health and wellness in Northern Ontario. Through policy leadership and advocacy, research and innovation, and education that better aligns medical training with community needs, the Centre is becoming a frontrunner in the improvement of sustainable equity, access, and population health outcomes. The national and international relevance of the Centre's work will become recognized as its results are dispersed among practitioners, policy makers, and advocates in similarly challenged jurisdictions.

Philanthropic support is crucial to the Dr. Gilles Arcand Centre for Health Equity's mission to transform health care in Northern Ontario and beyond. Your contributions will fuel innovative research, shape policies that address health-care disparities, and train future leaders committed to health equity. With your help, the Centre can expand its impact and continue driving change where it's needed most.

In addition, the following Endowed Chairs are key roles within the Dr. Gilles Arcand Centre for Health Equity that also need support to sustain this important work.

Endowed Chair for Physician Workforce Strategy (\$5M)

The need for immediate action to address the current lack of health human resources in Northern Ontario's rural and remote communities is clear. Robust and resilient health human resources will improve access to care in these settings and in Indigenous communities who visit them for secondary or tertiary care. A reliable and sustainable rural physician workforce will support the work of hospitals in larger centres by optimizing the care that can be delivered in rural hospitals, ensuring patients can be transferred home from larger centres as soon as is safely possible. Improving access to care improves health outcomes, which not only improves quality of life, but creates a healthy workforce which can improve the economic prosperity of the region.

The Chair, Physician Workforce Strategy will play a key role in helping NOSM University fulfill its mandate to improve the health of the people of Northern Ontario, in collaboration with other stakeholders who have this shared mandate. The Chair will guide the University's work to better understand the needs of the communities it serves and create a culture of resilience in the region's physician workforce so that those needs are met both in the short and long term.

Endowed Chair for Director of the Dr. Gilles Arcand Centre for Health Equity (\$5M)

The Dr. Gilles Arcand Centre for Health Equity is a multidisciplinary centre of NOSM University dedicated to the improvement of health and wellness in Northern Ontario. The aim of the centre is to improve the health of Northern Ontarians while extending beyond NOSM University's commitment to being socially accountable in our education and research programs and advocating for health equity. This chair will direct all research done at and through the centre.

The Centre's social accountability research defines and strengthens the work of the NOSM University and its partners, making it more effective in the achievement of this critical mission.

Endowed Chair in Mental Health and Addictions (\$5M)

Northern Ontario faces unique challenges in addressing mental health and addiction issues. A significant disparity exists between the region's needs and the resources available, particularly in terms of research, education, and clinical care. Establishing an endowed chair in mental health and addiction at NOSM University would be a pivotal step towards addressing these critical gaps.

Based at NOSM University, the Endowed Research Chair in Mental Health and Addictions will coordinate a partnership that links together research, care, health policy and system change for those who need it most. By establishing an endowed chair in mental health and addiction, NOSM University can play a leading role in improving the lives of individuals struggling with these issues in Northern Ontario. This investment will not only enhance the quality of care but also contribute to a healthier and more resilient region.

Endowed Chair in Indigenous Health (\$5M) Endowed Chair in Francophone Health (\$5M)

Northern Ontario is in crisis as it faces staggering health disparities among its Indigenous and Francophone populations. Indigenous individuals suffer from chronic disease rates 2.5 times higher than non-Indigenous Canadians, with nearly 30% reporting fair or poor health. Meanwhile, Francophone communities struggle with significant barriers to health-care access, leaving over half feeling their needs are unmet. These alarming statistics highlight the urgent necessity for immediate action, particularly as systemic issues like poverty affect 45% of Indigenous households. Establishing endowed chairs at NOSM University is essential to address these pressing challenges.

These endowed chairs would provide critical funding for targeted research and culturally appropriate interventions designed to transform health outcomes for these underserved communities. Chair holders would investigate the unique health challenges faced by Indigenous and Francophone populations while also training future health-care professionals to deliver culturally competent care. By fostering partnerships with local organizations, NOSM University can translate research into actionable solutions, directly addressing health inequities and improving the overall well-being of Northern Ontario's diverse populations. This investment is not just beneficial; it is vital for building a more equitable health-care system that serves all communities effectively.

Endowed Chair in AI and Virtual Medicine (\$5M)

In an era marked by global health challenges, the urgency for innovative solutions has never been greater. From the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to the rising prevalence of chronic diseases, our health-care systems are stretched thin. By supporting this endowed chair, you will help ensure that we are not only keeping pace with technological advancements but also leading the charge. The chair will facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration among engineers, health-care professionals, and researchers, driving the creation of evidence-based applications that can directly address pressing health issues.

This endowed chair represents a critical investment in the future of medicine, positioning our institution as a leader in a field that will shape health care for generations to come. It will attract top-tier faculty and researchers, enhance educational opportunities for students, and foster partnerships with industry leaders and health-care organizations. Your support will enable us to harness the full potential of AI and virtual medicine, paving the way for a more equitable, efficient, and innovative health-care system.

Together, we can change the way we approach health and wellness, ensuring better outcomes for individuals and communities alike.

Join us in this transformative endeavor.

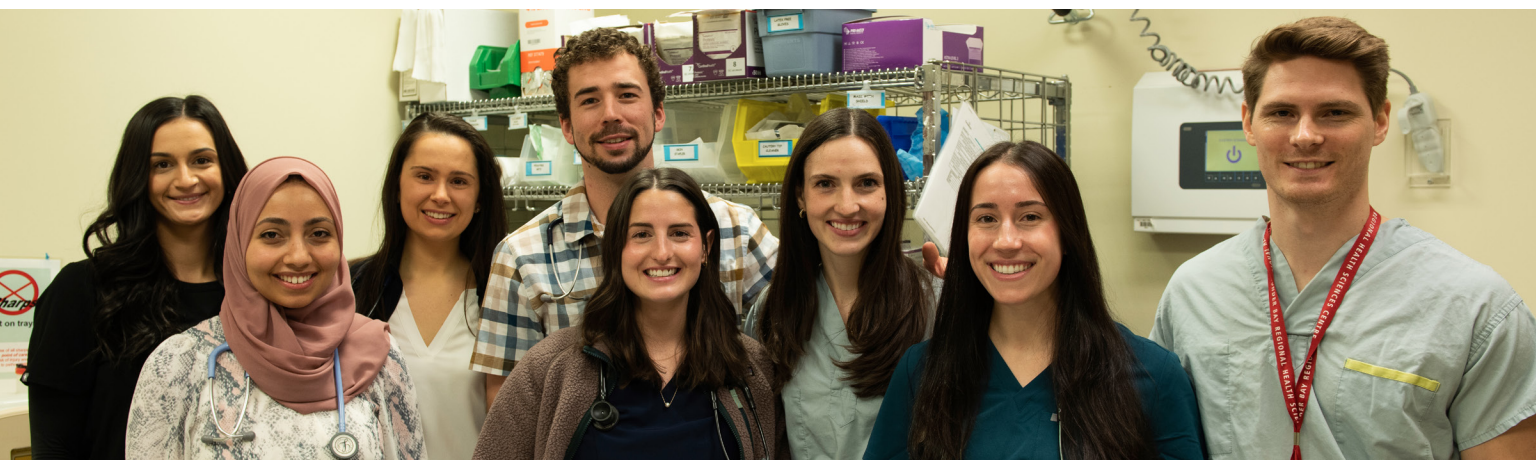
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