ISSUE 5, Fall 2026

WEENEEBAYKO FOUNDATION

BUILDING HEALTHY HORIZONS
— WEENEEBAYKO FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER —

In This Issue

Message from Lynne Innes

WAHA Redevelopment Update

Ornge Air Ambulance Golf Classic

Donor Spotlight

Bursary Program

MESSAGE FROM LYNNE INNES



Lynne Innes, President and CEO of the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority & the Weeneebayko Foundation

Summer has come and gone, and we now turn our thoughts toward fall and the coming winter.

Recent foundation activities include the departure of Joan Simon from her role as the Foundation's Director. Joan chose to leave her position with the Weeneebayko Foundation to pursue another project closer to her home in Brockville. We sincerely thank Joan for her guidance, dedication, and support in helping turn the hospital's vision into community-funded support. Joan was instrumental in cultivating donors and building strong relationships with key stakeholders.

Following Joan's departure, Lee Ann Grattan graciously agreed to take on the role of Interim Director. We are grateful to Lee Ann for stepping into this position and providing continued leadership and support during this transition.

In August, the Foundation and WAHA collaborated on the recruitment of a new manager for the Foundation, with a focus on finding someone who lives in the Weeneebayko area. I am pleased to share that Kelley Kitchicappo has taken on this role.

Having someone local in this position will greatly assist the Foundation by bringing deep community trust, local insight, and stronger connections to our organization and the communities we serve. Welcome, Kelley! We look forward to working with you in this new role.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a safe and bountiful hunting season, and to all harvesters carrying on the vital traditions of the land, may your season be a successful one.

Mîkwêc!

Lynne Innes

Lynne Innes, President and CEO
WAHA & Weeneebayko Foundation

WAHA REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

WAHA'S REDEVELOPMENT BEAM SIGNING CEREMONY MARKS A MAJOR MILESTONE





Photos courtesy of WAHA Communications Department

On September 9th, 2026, The Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA), alongside project partners and invited guests, celebrated a significant construction milestone today with a beam signing ceremony for the future regional healthcare campus in Moosonee.

As part of the ceremony, guests signed one of the final structural beams before it was lifted into place. Their signatures will become a permanent part of the new hospital, symbolizing the people, communities, and partnerships whose contributions have helped bring the WAHA Redevelopment Project to life.

Construction continues to move forward. To keep on top of the project's progress please follow WAHA's Redevelopment Project Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/WAHA.Redevelopment.Project

6th ANNUAL ORNGE AIR AMBULANCE GOLF CLASSIC

On June 15th, 2026, over 140 participants took the links at the Nobleton Lakes Golf Club to raise funds for WAHA's Redevelopment Project. A total of $42,274.00 was raised at the 2026 event, bringing the grand total to $99,700.00 raised over the past three years.

We sincerely thank the event organizers, and the senior executives of Air Ornge for their support over the years.

Another successful and fun-filled day at the 6th Annual Ornge Air's Golf Classic raised more than $45,000 in support of the WAHA Redevelopment Project.



Pictured at the cheque presentation on June 15, 2026 (left to right): Dr. Homer Tien, President & CEO, Ornge Air Ambulance; Lynne Innes, President & CEO, Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA); Sandra Kioke, Executive Vice-President, WAHA; and Karen Maisonneuve, Vice-President, People and Corporate Services, WAHA.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

GENEROUS DONOR HELPS ADVANCE IRON CARE FOR THE COMMUNITIES WAHA SERVES

On October 1 & 2, 2026, WAHA was fortunate enough to be visited by Dr. Jeannie Callum, who gave a presentation on advancing iron care to the Weeneebayko region. Following her presentation, Callum toured the schools in Moose Factory and Moosonee to get a firsthand look at what food is being offered to school age children. She also paid a visit to the Moose Factory Health Centre and spent time speaking with the Health Centre nurses about their prenatal and preschool programs.On Oct. 2, before heading back to Kingston, Callum visited local stores to glimpse the types of food items that are available to customers.



On October 1, Dr. Jeannie Callum visited Moosonee and Moose Factory to deliver a presentation to Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA) staff on iron deficiency. Recent research has highlighted a higher prevalence of iron deficiency in Northern communities. In support of addressing this health concern, Dr. Callum generously donated $10,000 to the Weeneebayko Foundation. These funds will help WAHA purchase oral iron supplements to support individuals experiencing iron deficiency in the region.

Dr. Callum's presented findings to WAHA staff concerning iron deficiency are becoming more common in Ontario. She cited, latest data shows that one in every two women/children under the age of 50 is iron deficient. In the North, based on the blood levels of women delivering children 100% of them are iron deficient and needing intravenous iron to stay healthy in pregnancy. The reason why Ontario women are getting more iron deficient isn't completely clear but could be due to eating less meat (due to cost) and the fact that vegetables have less iron in them (because the soils are depleted of iron). Spinach today has half of the amount of iron as it did 50 years ago. Girls that have low iron levels have worse school performance, even with a normal blood level. The differences are huge – a difference between a B and an A. This is because iron is needed for the brain to use glucose. You can't think without iron. It is really important that we figure this out as babies born to iron deficient mothers have higher rates of ADHD, anxiety, autism, and schizophrenia and worse school performance through to university. For the health of our kids, we need to investigate why everyone is iron deficient and then come up with solutions.

Dr. Jeannie Callum is a Canadian transfusion medicine specialist and hematologist based in Ontario, where she serves as professor in the Departments of Pathology & Molecular Medicine at Queen's University and Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology at the University of Toronto. As Director of Transfusion Medicine at Kingston Health Sciences Centre and an associate scientist at Sunnybrook Research Institute, she has focused on improving blood utilization, improving the science behind iron therapy, and managing coagulopathy in trauma and post-cardiac surgery. Callum is the lead author of Bloody Easy (the Ontario provincial transfusion handbook), and an author or editor of over 300 peer-reviewed publications.

In June 2026, Dr. Callum generously donated $10,000 to the Weeneebayko Foundation, which has been earmarked to provide oral iron tablets as a first-line treatment. This initiative will help identify and address iron deficiency at an early stage, emphasizing the importance of early intervention in improving health outcomes.

Dr. Callum noted that the community must be part of the investigation and solution!

Thank you, Dr. Jeannie Callum, for your care, compassion and generosity!



Pictured l-r: Kelley Kitchcappo, Foundation Manager, Sandra Kioke, WAHA, Executive Vice-President look on as Dr. Jeannie Callum is presented with thank you gifts for her presentation.

WEENEEBAYKO FOUNDATION INTRODUCES A BURSARY PROGRAM



Please note: The bursaries are non-repayable financial awards. For more information on how to apply and eligibility criteria, please visit wahafoundation.ca

The Weeneebayko Foundation, in collaboration with the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA) is pleased to announce the introduction of a new Bursary Program.

WAHA, and the Weeneebayko Foundation are committed to providing equitable access to education and training opportunities for the communities we serve. Our bursary program is designed to help students cover the costs associated with post-secondary education, including school supplies, textbooks, housing, and groceries.

Each year, the bursary program will be awarding ten (10) approved recipients $1,000 each as follows:

For January 2027, the bursary program will award five (5) approved recipients $1,000.00 each. Applications will be accepted starting October 14th, 2026, and will close Wednesday, November 25th, 2026. Funds will be awarded on December 16th, 2026.

For September 2027, the bursary program will award five (5) approved recipients $1, 000.00 each. Applications will be accepted starting April 14th, 2027 and closes May 26th, 2027. Funds will be awarded on June 23rd, 2027.

Connect with Us:

Weeneebayko Foundation
19 Hospital Drive, P.O. Box 664,
Moose Factory, ON P0L 1W0

Web: www.wahafoundation.ca
E-mail: foundation@waha.ca
Telephone: 705-658-4544, ext. 2364

Facebook click here
Charitable Registration
No. 897234795 RR 0001