



Healing Waters Information Sheet

Background

Healing Waters is a proposed restorative development in Smoky Lake County. Once built, Healing Waters will serve as a secure, Métis-led addictions recovery community combining traditional Métis and Western healthcare near the banks of the North Saskatchewan River.

Construction of this facility is forecasted to be a \$35-million investment in Smoky Lake County and expected to bring up to 120 construction and health-related jobs.

What is a Recovery Community?

Recovery communities are a form of holistic, long-term residential addiction treatment, where clients are eligible to stay up to a year. It operates on a restorative model based on the belief that recovery is possible, and everyone should be supported and face as few barriers as possible in their pursuit of recovery.

Clients of recovery communities have access to a range of culturally appropriate services, including opioid agonist treatment medications, counselling, employment support, training, financial support, and housing support. Participants remain within the facility throughout their recovery process and receive adequate supervision when participating in cultural events and on-the-land activities.

This is in line with the Alberta Government's transition towards a recovery-oriented system of care that will improve outcomes for all Albertans, as well as the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's goal to address shortcomings with current treatment models: quick turnaround, minimal aftercare supports, and systems that foster circular relapse.

The province plans to have 11 government-funded recovery communities established across Alberta, two of which are already operational in Red Deer and Lethbridge.

How Will It Operate?

Healing Waters will operate under a model dedicated to building a continuum of care for its clients that combines traditional Métis and Western healthcare. Clients will have access to a coordinated network of personalized, community-based services and a full continuum of services and supports.



Clients will be referred from a broad network of addictions services across the province and will have successfully completed the acute medical detox phase of their recovery path. Discharge planning begins on arrival. Upon completing The Four Phases of Residential Recovery, clients will be followed up with as they return to their home communities.

How Will Our Community Benefit?

In addition to having a world-class facility near Métis Crossing, the project is forecasted to bring \$35 million in investments to Smoky Lake County. Residents will see the creation of 90 – 120 construction and full-time employment in the area. Long-term economic benefits are expected to grow during the facility’s construction and operation.

Call to Action

On Thursday, April 18, we invite our Métis Citizens in Smoky Lake and surrounding counties to be community champions and come learn about Healing Waters. Our Talk and Tea session will take place at the Ukrainian National Hall (107 Willow Creek St., Smoky Lake) from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Join us to show your support and be part of the momentum!