

LONGEST FLIGHT TIME:
29 hours 22 minutes

Grise Fiord to Ottawa
3,481 km • 3 flights, 4 stops



NEW RESOURCES

Our patients are our top priority - we do everything we can to help them and their families. That's why we form partnerships with organizations in the North and in the South whose missions align with ours.

This year, thanks to our partners at Tungasuvvingat Inuit, we've been able to update our website to include reference videos on Inuit culture, experience with the medical system, and supports that patients and families can expect on medical trips to Ottawa.

We're thankful to all of our partner organizations and the governments who support our work by also supporting Nunavummiut and their families.

LOOKING AHEAD

OHSNI is keenly aware that medical travel is not without its challenges. It disrupts families, requires people to leave their community networks, and - for some - recalls the territory's tragic TB ship history.

We will always work to make trips to Ottawa as smooth and as short as possible, so patients can go back home quickly with the continuing recuperative support they need.

As the global pandemic enters a third year, we are navigating challenges and finding opportunity - in partnership with patients, families, and our many partners.

As always, our goal is to provide culturally appropriate, medically effective, and timely, life-enhancing services to patients. If you would like to share a comment, compliment, or complaint with us, we are always open to ways we can improve.

Email us 24/7/365 at info@ohsni.com.

**Making a difference
for Inuit families**

TURNING THE CORNER

7,489
appointments facilitated

3,200
discharges

39
specialty clinics held in the North

100%
interpretation requests met

MESSAGE FROM OHSNI'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DANIELLE DORSCHNER



As I reflect on the last year, I am immensely proud of our team and continuously humbled by the patients and families we serve. Accompanying Nunavummiut on their journeys is an honour and we strive daily to earn and keep the trust that is foundational to our work.

The COVID-19 Pandemic strained - and continues to impact - everyone at all levels in every health system. We know that the pandemic has exacerbated some challenges and we will work with Northern and Southern partners to make necessary medical trips as smooth and as short as possible. My thanks to our staff, who are truly leading professionals in their fields, and who work tirelessly to connect Northerners with the vital, life-enhancing care they need and deserve. To Nunavummiut - your unwavering resolve in the face of new challenges fuels us to always do and be better. We continue to learn and walk together.

MESSAGE FROM OHSNI'S BOARD CHAIR HEATHER SHERRARD, BScN, MHA



I'm proud to see OHSNI continue to provide crucial support to Nunavummiut and their families, and to be modelling resiliency and ingenuity through the daily actions of the entire team.

Access to timely and effective healthcare is a fundamental need and right for everyone in Canada; OHSNI continues to distinguish itself by connecting patients, making visits as efficient as possible, and ensuring the utmost accommodation in getting Northerners back to their communities and loved ones soonest.

Thank you to our staff for your devotion, and to our patients and your families for all you entrust in us.

Social worker story

Amélie Cardinal



Amélie Cardinal is always learning – and, more precisely, listening to learn, learning to understand. She is working with CHEO and OHSNI - Ottawa Health Services Network, Inc., to help families work through the barriers to accessing health care and any other challenges that risk holding them back.

"I'm coming in as an ally, as a helper, and – yes – as a learner," Amélie says. "I have learnt so much while working in this position and I continue to learn every single day. The most important teachings have come from Inuit families that I have encountered during their medical travels to Ottawa. I have learnt how resilient Inuit are and how despite all of the hardship, barriers, and grief they continuously face, there is always a reason to smile and laugh - always."

Mental health and overall well-being can mean something different to each and every one of us based on life experiences and values/beliefs that are often rooted in cultural identity. Amélie has also seen firsthand the effects of multi-generational traumas and of colonialism.

Alongside CHEO and partners like Amélie, OHSNI ensures that medical travel, especially for children, is rooted in family and making trips as short and efficient as possible.

"Setting a family up for success can make such a difference in their journey while down South - preventing/limiting trauma, creating a safe environment, having a non-judgmental and welcoming presence, encouraging families to share and practice their culture while away from home, etc. Small gestures based on cultural sensitivities, awareness and safety go a long way for these families."

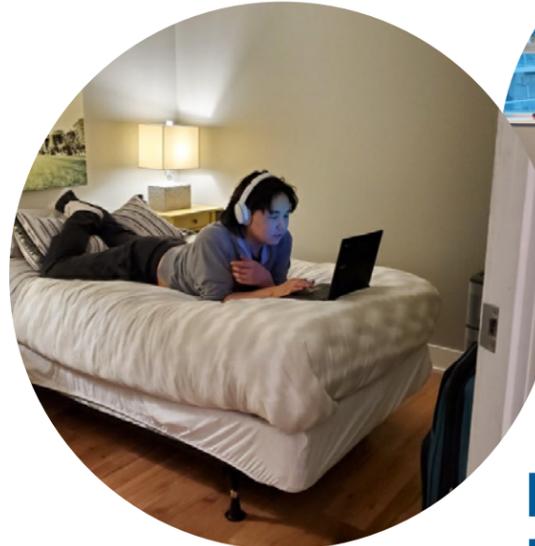
Thanks to the Child First Initiative, OHSNI and our partners are able to ensure that children are prioritized and given the care they need, whether or not they're the ones receiving medical travel.

"Ongoing efforts are being made through the CHEO-OHSNI partnership that I believe have and will continue to make a huge difference in educating the staff and providing opportunities for everyone to learn more about Inuit and create a more welcoming and safer place for Inuit on medical travel for CHEO services."



Supporting Jordan's Principle, the Inuit Child First Initiative (CFI) ensures Inuit children have access to the essential government funded health, social and educational products, services and supports they need, when they need them.

OHSNI is a proud CFI activation partner.



Moses and Malaika's story

A family medical emergency puts a strain on all family members. For Moses and Malaika Qanatsiaq, it meant leaving friends and family behind for months to accompany their parents south so their dad could get vital, life-enhancing medical care.

Their mom, Lizzie, was stressed. But she got in touch with OHSNI and applied to the Inuit CFI for help. Moses and Malaika also received new laptop computers so they could keep current with their studies and stay connected with their friends.

"It's been so helpful," says Lizzie. "It's a relief for us. One less thing to worry about. After this, we're hoping for a normal life."

The Inuit CFI supports families when they need it most. It helps medical travellers get back to normal sooner. And OHSNI is proud to help you make CFI applications the best it can be.

MESSAGE FROM OHSNI'S CFI COORDINATOR DHEEKSHA REDDY



At OHSNI, we are exceedingly proud to support families' applications and we are gratified by each federal approval we receive. It is the honour of a lifetime to make each call telling a family 'yes.' Yes, we can help make a positive difference in the life of a child or youth in your care. Yes, they can get the individualized support they need. Yes, the field has been leveled for them - if only a little bit - so they have a fair shot at overcoming barriers and living a fuller, happier, healthier life. Yes, this is a dream job.

Sincere thanks to the families, advocates, and federal partners who help make it so.

If an Inuit child or youth in your life could benefit from health, education, social, or medical travel support, get in touch with Dheeksha Reddy, OHSNI's CFI coordinator, today at dreddy@ohsni.com or **613-371-6504**.