

# Lions Gala Raises \$100,000 For Indigenous Eye Health

## TNLC Funds Will Support Eye Exam Room & Diabetes Care In Anishnawbe Health Centre

TORONTO: The Toronto Netralya Lions Club (TNLC) donated \$100,000 for "Indigenous Eye Health" at a fundraiser organized at the Avani Event Centre in Vaughan. Funds raised at the Lions Gala for Sight - 2018 will support an "Eye Exam and Diabetes Care room" for a new Anishnawbe Health Centre in Toronto.

This is the first time Lions and the Indian Diaspora have created a legacy and taken the lead to raise funds for the Indigenous Community of Canada.

"Our Toronto Netralya Lions Club wanted to do something to help the Indigenous people, one of the most vulnerable communities in the Greater Toronto Area," says Lion Kanta Arora, Founding Member, Club President and Gala Chair on May 5, 2018.

"The TNLC is dedicated to ending preventable blindness and to provide funding for programs that help eradicate eye disease in underprivileged communities. I'm proud that TNLC got behind this cause and we are proud to contribute to 'Truth and Reconciliation' for our Indigenous brothers and sisters with this donation."

In Canada, Diabetes is a leading cause of preventable eye dis-



The cheque for \$100,000 is presented.



A dance performance by Sampradaya Dance Creations

ease. Diabetes is the 6th leading cause of death and one in three Canadians with Diabetes will develop Retinopathy which can cause irreversible vision loss if Diabetes is not managed and blood sugar not controlled. For Indigenous people in particular, Diabetes is at unprecedented levels and is three to five times more than their non-Indigenous counterparts with the onset of the disease occurring at a much younger age and with complications.

"On behalf of Anishnawbe Health Toronto and our Foundation, chi-miigwetch (big thank you) to the Gala organizing committee, volunteers, guests and sponsors who made this incredible night possible. We deeply appreciate this strong leadership



Sunray Group gets a plaque.

support to help move our vision of a new home for Indigenous health a reality. With this generous support, we will expand vision and Diabetes care for our community," says Diane Gray, President of Anishnawbe Health Foundation.

The Toronto Netralya Lions Club (TNLC) is a service club

dedicated to ending preventable blindness and providing funding for programs that help eradicate eye disease in underprivileged communities. Since its inception in 2009, the Club has raised more than \$700,000 for various local and global humanitarian causes and charities mainly involved with "Excellence in Preventable

Blindness, Vision and Diabetes." For more information, visit [www.netralyalions.com](http://www.netralyalions.com)

Anishnawbe Health Toronto is a Community Health Centre with a mission is to improve the health and well-being of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in spirit, mind, emotion and body by providing traditional healing within a multi-disciplinary health care model. Anishnawbe Health Foundation is a registered charity that supports the work of Anishnawbe Health Toronto. Its inaugural project is a \$10 million capital campaign to help fund the community share portion of a new Community Health Centre building that will bring all of AHT's services under one roof in the West Don Lands area.

# Now, Skip The Line To Renew Your Photo Health Cards

TORONTO: People across Ontario can now renew their photo health card online at [ServiceOntario.ca/RenewCards](http://ServiceOntario.ca/RenewCards).

To renew a health card online, people in Ontario need:

- A valid driver's licence to verify identity as a security measure
- To have lived at the same

address at least 90 days prior to renewing; To keep all other personal details the same

Individuals can still choose to renew their health card in-person at nearly 300 ServiceOntario centres located across Ontario. Many are open on weekends and evenings and some allow you to skip the line by making an ap-

pointment. There is no fee to renew a health card either online or in-person.

Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Government and Consumer Services, said: "This is another step in our government's commitment to bring more and more services online. It builds on the other options our government provides,

such as the online driver's licence renewal and the integrated online address change system; this is an important addition to ServiceOntario's online options."

### QUICK FACTS

- There is no fee to renew a health card. Regular fees, however apply to renew your driver's licence, and are the same both on-

line and in-person.

- If your identity cannot be verified online, you will need to renew your health card in-person.

- If you need a photo for your health card or driver's licence, renewing both at the same time in-person will improve your chances of being able to renew both online the next time around.

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