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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Friday, June 19th, 2009

T&DH launches new Aboriginal Healing Room to meet patient needs

Timmins, ON, Friday June 19th, 2009, The Timmins and District Hospital (T&DH) hosted the official opening of the newly constructed Aboriginal Healing Room. This room is now officially called “*Spiritual Place*”¹ (accompanied by a medicine wheel) and will help to meet the spiritual and cultural needs of the hospital’s patients and visitors.

This specialized room is primarily meant for Aboriginal, First Nations, and Métis in-patients of the hospital in order to provide them the opportunity to participate in healing ceremonies and a place for meditation.


The circular healing room was designed with no right angles and is constructed with a separate ventilation system to allow for smudging ceremonies. Mr. Gordon Goodwin painted the image of a turtle on the domed ceiling of this room.

T&DH was able to obtain funding through the Federal-Provincial Aboriginal Transition Fund to support this project and has been working with the Timmins and District Hospital Foundation to secure donations from various organizations for the remainder of the cost.

This project was developed through the Aboriginal Advisory Committee and advocated by the Health Care Team as well as aboriginal patients and visitors at T&DH.

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¹  *The medicine wheel is based on ancient symbolism as follows: the red, yellow, black and white colours, help us visualize the four elements (earth, air, fire and water), the four aspects of human nature, (physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual), the four directions (east south, west and north) and the cycle of human development (infancy, childhood, adulthood and eldership) all working within the wholeness of creation.*