



CAME Voice/Voix

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine Celebrates 10 Years! Roger Strasser, Dean and CEO, Northern Ontario School of Medicine

It's hard to believe that Canada's newest medical school—the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM)—is already celebrating its 10th anniversary!

Northern Ontarians, particularly Aboriginal and Francophone peoples, have chronically faced substantial health professional shortages in their communities. NOSM was the first Canadian medical school established with an explicit social accountability mandate to contribute to improving the health of the people and communities of the region. Born of a grassroots movement, NOSM's approach has been to educate health professionals specifically in and for the context of Northern Ontario—a region the size of Germany and France combined—by recruiting those who would be most likely to stay, and giving them experiences that showcase the benefits of rural and Northern medicine.

Since 2009, NOSM has had seven graduating classes, of whom 62% have chosen family medicine (predominantly rural) training. The majority of the other MD graduates are training in general specialties such as general internal medicine, general surgery and pediatrics, with a small number training in subspecialties like dermatology, plastic surgery, and radiation oncology. NOSM offers residency training in family medicine and eight other major general specialties. Notably, 94% of the doctors who have completed both undergraduate and postgraduate education with NOSM are practising in Northern Ontario. In addition, NOSM educates dietetic interns and collaborates with other schools to train physician assistants, audiologists, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and pharmacists in the North.

In the last 10 years, the School has proven that rural education is not a disadvantage—NOSM students have scored highly in the Medical Council of Canada exams, and secured sought-after positions in residency programs. NOSM's research is guided by social accountability with a focus on addressing research questions that are relevant to the health of people and communities in the North. In addition, the School's presence brings significant economic development to historically resource-based communities in Northern Ontario.

As NOSM celebrates its 10th anniversary, the School is saying thank you, merci, miigwetch to the many people who have made the School what it is today. NOSM would like to thank you—NOSM's national colleagues—who have collaborated and shared your ideas and expertise with us over the past 10 years. Thank you for your support!

www.nosm.ca