



**The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie**

C O U N C I L R E P O R T

April 29, 2025

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council
AUTHOR: Tom Vair, CAO
DEPARTMENT: Chief Administrative Officer
RE: NOSM U Clinical Campus Feasibility Study

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information and the completed feasibility study to establish a clinical campus of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University (NOSM U) in Sault Ste. Marie.

Background

On March 18, 2024, City Council approved a contribution from the Community Development Fund of \$75,000 to support the development of a business case and funding proposal for a clinical campus of the NOSM U in Sault Ste. Marie. Sault Area Hospital also agreed to contribute \$25,000 towards the initiative as part of their contribution and commitment to physician recruitment in the community.

BDP Quadrangle was the lead consultant on the project, and the project team also included Avison Young, Human Space, and Hanscomb.

The report was developed through a multistage process, including engagement and information gathering, data analysis, and option development (Attachment A – Sault Ste. Marie NOSM University Campus Feasibility Study).

Beyond NOSM U, the consultants sought input from a wide group of community stakeholders including Algoma University, Sault College, Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, Maamweysing North Shore Community Health Services, Sault Area Hospital, Sault Ste Marie Academic Medical Association, Algoma Public Health, Algoma Ontario Health Team, Algoma West Academy of Medicine, Group Health Centre, Superior Family Health Team, Lady Dunn Health Centre, and the North Shore Health Network.

Analysis

Council is well aware of the challenges that are being experienced with the provision of primary care services in Sault Ste. Marie.

The study documents the clear need and benefits of a clinical campus of NOSM U in Sault Ste. Marie in order to provide a long-term solution for physician

recruitment. Additionally, a study was conducted to examine the impact of rural medical training programs, drawing insights from similar campuses worldwide and their effects on the medical landscape.

A near-term opportunity to establish Primary Care Teaching Clinics (PCTCs) in the first phase of campus development was identified as a highly beneficial solution. A PCTC is a specialized facility within a healthcare setting that provides medical students, residents, and healthcare professionals with hands-on medical training.

Three options for a location were identified and include Algoma Public Health, Group Health Centre, and Sault Area Hospital. Based on the team's analysis and decision-making framework, Algoma Public Health and Sault Area Hospital represent the two most viable options for a new facility. This was directly attributed to Algoma Public Health offering the least capital-intensive construction/renovation process and a quicker implementation plan, and Sault Area Hospital providing access to other hospital facilities with greater potential for future expansion.

The completion of the feasibility study is an important first step to advance the development of a clinical campus in Sault Ste. Marie. From here, Mayor and staff will work with NOSM U and local stakeholders to advocate with the Provincial government to advance this promising concept.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications at this point in the project.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact

This report aligns directly with the Corporate Strategic Plan 2024-2027 in the Community Development focus area – “Well-being – Advocate for improved health-care facilities and personnel; Foster collaboration and coordination of health and social services; and Invest in allied healthcare recruitment and innovative labour force solutions.”

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the CAO dated April 29, 2025 concerning the establishment of a clinical campus of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University in Sault Ste. Marie be received as information.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Vair

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