

THE VILLAGE

Well I think the village is the community, first of all.

This project, of all the projects that are all very important, that we do at the college, but this one hits everyone in a different way.

You know to coin a phrase it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a village to keep us healthy as we enter the different stages of life.

We're actually changing the model, it's what we set out to do and we're actually seeing it happen.

We don't care where a certain discipline, a certain treatment, a certain approach to wellness is from. What we're concerned about is does it work, does it address our condition, and does it make us better?

The Village really describes what we're trying to create, that is a place for all people, a place where all people are supported. Where we share experiences, we share the wisdom, we share the fun and laughter that comes with interacting with people of all different ages, all different backgrounds, all different experiences.

So what does Indigenous health and wellness mean anyways? What does Eastern medicine have to offer? The opportunity now to create a broader frame of reference and a shared frame of reference is phenomenal.

The Village is designed to incorporate Indigenous, Western, and Eastern medicines – into a new academic setting – that is just going to facilitate a new level of inter-professional education opportunities for our students.

To really produce well-rounded health care, human care professionals.

Where we are learning from with and about each other through inter-professional collaboration.

We will be able to do ceremonies, we will be able to just open the door and go out on the land.

It gives us that opportunity to be able to learn more about it as well so that we are well educated.

We have to learn what's happening in the world and bring it to classrooms.

What's the final goal? The final goal is to work together and to come to a common ground where we're gonna create success.

That is it's largest strength.

The thing is, we all are getting old, there's no doubt about it.

The baby boomer population, a lot of them are aging, so in the next few years we're going to have this very high demand for people entering the healthcare field.

We're going to have aging residents living on campus.

We're going to see all age groups, we're going to see student-led clinics, multigenerational settings are the way of the future.

And by creating that new way of delivering training and experiential learning, we're going to be advancing in a very meaningful relevant way, a new way of delivering healthcare.

Every member that is in the village, that touches the village, that sets foot on our campus is part of that broader community.

When we think about bringing Eastern and Western and Indigenous wellness practices and learning together, that tells me that we, as a community, we as Canadore, are knowing that one perspective is not the way.

And I feel like that's essentially a team, no matter who you are where you're from, we're all a team.

This is something that's needed in our society right now.

When I drive to Canadore what I see is a sign that says "Great Things Happen Here." Pay attention to that, because that is what's happening, and we all need to be part of that.

Finally, we're getting a place. Finally at a college campus we're actually gonna have a place.

We're actually changing the model, it's what we set out to do, and we're actually seeing it happen.