

Mission Moment

When staff from Mental Health Supportive Housing learned about Gilles' lifelong dream to see the Toronto Blue Jays play in person, they knew they had to make it happen. A proud Blue Jays super fan and long-time St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) client, Gilles, set out on the trip of a lifetime: his first flight, his first ferry, and his first-ever live Jays game. The excitement was electric, and to make the day even more special, the Jays brought home a win!

The memories didn't stop there. During the game, a staff member caught a game ball, and when offered the keepsake, Gilles asked that it be given to the staff member's daughter instead. In a heartfelt surprise, the team had the ball encased and returned to Gilles - a gesture that perfectly captured the kindness and connection behind the entire trip.

This experience was more than just a day at the ballpark. It was a celebration of teamwork, compassion, and shared joy. Moments like this remind us why we do what we do, and how even the smallest acts can create memories that last a lifetime.

—Submitted by Mental Health Supportive Housing

Drive High-Quality People-Centred Care

Safer Care in the Right Space: Mino Ginawenjigewin



On November 7th, St. Joseph's Care Group welcomed partners and dignitaries to celebrate the official opening and naming of the new 500 Oliver Road site, home to Safe Sobering and Withdrawal Management Services.

The name *Mino Ginawenjigewin* (pronounced "Mih-no Gih-nah-when-jih-gay-win"), meaning "The Act of Caring for People," was gifted to the site by Ogichidaa Onaakonigewin (Elders' Council) to reflect its purpose as a place of compassionate, wholistic care. While staying there, clients can access a continuum of culturally appropriate, trauma-informed services, including safe sobering, medically-supported withdrawal management, counselling, peer support, Rapid Access Addiction

Medicine, and wholistic healing provided by the Nanaandawe'ewin (Traditional Healing) Program. A new Transportation and Outreach team also enhances accessibility by ensuring clients can travel safely to and from care. This service aims to reduce barriers for individuals who may be vulnerable or lack safe transportation options.

Nurture Our People

Connection with Purpose: President & CEO Town Halls

This fall marked the launch of the President & CEO Town Halls. Throughout October, Janine Black hosted Town Hall sessions at the five largest sites, which increased the opportunity for staff across the organization to join. She also did walkabouts at every site ahead of the Town Halls to connect directly with frontline staff and speak with those who may not have been able to attend, ensuring their voices and opinions were still heard. Each Town Hall provided attendees the opportunity to hear what was happening across SJCG, share ideas, and ask questions directly to leadership. Staff who were unable to attend were also invited to participate by completing an Ask Me Anything Survey, which allowed them to share questions or suggest topics for future sessions, the next of which will take place in Spring 2026.

To encourage safe and open conversation, the sessions were not recorded, but key ideas were summarized into a report that will soon be available for staff to read. The insights gathered through the Town Halls will help inform SJCG's ongoing journey, ensuring that it remains a place where everyone feels heard, valued, and connected in purpose.

Lead and Enhance Regional Specialized Care

Bridging Ways of Knowing: Wound Education for Indigenous Communities



Supported through one-time funding from First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care (FNIHCC), the Wound Education for Indigenous Communities Project set out to build confidence and skill in wound care prevention and management through a Two-Eyed Seeing approach, bringing together Western medical practices and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge.

Co-designed with N'doo'owe Binesi, the series was built to be more than just education - it's an experience of learning together. Learning modules are hosted online through the Regional Wound Care Program website, with participants receiving a certificate of completion for each module. All materials are publicly available for anyone to access and learn from.

To ensure the learning truly reflected community needs, surveys were shared with First Nations Home and Community Care recipients across Ontario. That feedback guided every step, helping to shape the content so that it supports care that is both culturally safe and trauma-informed.

As development of the project continued, more partners joined in, making it possible to include additional content such as recorded lectures on Nutrition and Wound Healing and Traditional Healing. The skill-based video modules were launched this month, offering practical demonstrations for learners, with the lecture series to follow in early 2026.

Strategic Enablers

Treaty Education Displays Expanded Across SJCG



Last November, St. Joseph's Care Group installed a permanent education display on the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850 at St. Joseph's Hospital. Rooted in Anishinaabek culture, it recognizes the ongoing impact of treaties on Anishinaabek communities.

Building on this initiative, 11 companion displays were installed earlier this year across SJCG's Thunder Bay sites, including Hogarth Riverview Manor, Sister Margaret Smith Centre, Crossroads Centre, St. Joseph's Heritage, and Amethyst House. Together, these installations reflect SJCG's ongoing commitment to honouring Treaty Rights and the Anishinaabek of this region, while providing accessible education for clients, visitors, and staff. The

Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850 is reproduced on the left-hand side of the installation. At the centre is "The Seven Clans," an original artwork by Jessica Mamakeesick. On the right is a panel depicting elements of Anishinaabek culture and acknowledging the land on which SJCG operates.

During Treaties Recognition Week (November 2–7, 2025), SJCG hosted ceremonies at each site, joined by leaders from N'doo'owe Binesi and Ogichidaa-Kwe (Elder in Council) Brenda Mason. Nearly 100 clients and staff participated in these gatherings, which included opportunities to smudge, learn, and reflect as Elder Brenda shared her personal connection to treaties and the importance of understanding our shared history as treaty people.