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## **Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte Celebrate Ribbon Cutting for Tsi Thonwatíhsnye's Elder Care Home**

TYENDINAGA MOHAWK TERRITORY, Ontario, June 23, 2026 – The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte marked a historic milestone with the official ribbon-cutting ceremony for Tsi Thonwatíhsnye's Elder Care Home, a new 128-bed long-term care home located at 7984 Old Highway 2 in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, Ontario.

The opening of Tsi Thonwatíhsnye's Elder Care Home represents a major step forward in supporting Elders in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory and surrounding communities. The home was created to help Elders receive high-quality care while remaining close to their families, language, culture, traditions, and community. This is reflected in the name 'Tsi Thonwatíhsnye's' which translates to 'where they take care of them (support them)'.

The new long-term care home includes 128 private, modern rooms and will provide 24-hour nursing and personal care, social and cultural programming, food services, and support from health professionals. The home has been designed with larger resident common areas, air conditioning throughout, and smaller resident home areas to create a more familiar, comfortable, and welcoming living environment.

Each resident home area will support up to 32 residents and will include dining and activity areas, lounges, and bedrooms. This model helps create a warm, home-like setting where Elders receive care in a place rooted in community and connection.

The home will be licensed to and operated by the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and managed by UniversalCare Canada Inc., a respected manager of culturally designated long-term care homes across Ontario.

“This licensed long-term care facility is more than a building. It is a promise to our Elders,” said Chief R. Donald Maracle. “Tsi Thonwatíhsnye's Elder Care Home honours the people who, in the past, have been denied many services, including long-term care, in their home community. We sincerely thank all of the funding partners and staff, led by Director of Housing, Tom Kring, who worked to make this home a reality. Today, we celebrate a place where Elders will be cared for with dignity, respect, and cultural connection.”

The project has been described as the largest on-reserve long-term care home in Ontario, with 128 long-term care beds and a 95,000-square-foot design focused on community-specific health needs, infection prevention, gathering spaces, and smaller resident home areas.

The home's care model places culture at the centre of daily life. It will honour Kanyen'kehá:ka (Mohawk) teachings and heritage through traditional foods, ceremonies, language, cultural activities, and community connection.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony brought together community members, Elders, leadership, staff, partners, and supporters to recognize the years of advocacy, planning, and collaboration required to bring the project to life.

"The opening of Tsi Thonwatíhsnye's Elder Care Home paves a path for the expansion of quality care infrastructure and long-term care home standards," said the Honourable Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure. "This facility will provide safety, support, dignity, and cultural connection back to those who continue to care for our communities. The Government of Canada is pleased to support this space where culture and care come together."

"I want to acknowledge what this opening means for families in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory and surrounding regions. It brings relief to friends and family knowing their loved ones can now be cared for close to home. This home means a continued connection to culture and community," said the Honourable Mandy Gull-Masty, Minister of Indigenous Services. "It reflects the power of community-led solutions to support Elders in the place they call home. As a funding partner, alongside the province, I want to thank the First Nation, staff, and all partners who came together to make this new home possible and improve lives."

"The opening of Tsi Thonwatíhsnye's Elder Care Home marks a major milestone in our government's plan to protect residents and increase access to world-class health care across the province," said Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, Minister of Long-Term Care. "Now that construction has been completed, 128 residents will have a culturally appropriate, safe and modern place to call home."

The federal government provided \$25 million through the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program, \$5 million through the Health Facilities program and \$250,000 through the Lands and Economic Development program to support the construction of this home that would help Elders stay connected to language, culture, and community while receiving long-term care in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory.

"This new home stands as a powerful example of what is possible when communities and governments work together. Here, Elders will receive high-quality care that honours their traditions, language, and way of life. At the Tsi Thonwatíhsnye's care home, Elders will continue to share their knowledge and values with future generations, strengthening the bonds of community. It is a place where care is guided by culture," said Chris Malette,

Member of Parliament for Bay of Quinte. “We are honoured to be a part of this important new pillar in the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory.”

“The opening of Tsi Thonwatíhsnye’s Elder Care Home marks an important step forward in ensuring Elders can access safe, high-quality, and culturally appropriate care in their own community,” said Coleen Volk, President and CEO of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). “By sharing our expertise and client-focused support throughout the negotiation of the tripartite agreement development process, we helped to address a critical gap in care and housing services. CMHC was pleased to work alongside the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and our federal and provincial partners to help advance this project.”

“Today is a proud and emotional day for the community,” said Joseph Gulizia, President and CEO of UniversalCare Canada Inc., which will manage the home. “This home reflects what becomes possible when care, culture, community, and government work together. We are honoured to support the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte in bringing this vision to life.”

Chief Maracle thanked all levels of government, community leadership, partners, staff, and supporters who helped make the home a reality. He noted that Tsi Thonwatíhsnye’s Elder Care Home stands as a lasting investment in Elder care, Indigenous-led service delivery, and the right of Elders to age close to home.

– 30 –

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