

BRIGHT LIGHTS AWARDS

2021

DILICO FAMILY HEALTH TEAM & DILICO ANISHINABEK FAMILY CARE

**Award: Small, Rural, and Northern teams that have taken care
of their communities during COVID-19**

Achievement: Supporting the Robinson Superior Treaty Area during COVID-19



As the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in Ontario, at one time the Thunder Bay District Health Unit had one of the highest case numbers per population in Ontario. Dilico Family Health Team (FHT) and Dilico Anishinabek Family Care (AFC) were committed to reducing those numbers for local Indigenous communities and did so successfully through commitment, hard work and partnerships. The team identified probable cases, tested and arranged for supports to keep them at home. When the vaccine first became available, they targeted outbreaks and quickly decreased the number of active cases.

Dilico works closely with the 12 communities within the Robinson Superior Treaty Area. When the pandemic hit, the FHT and AFC quickly established teams with the Chief and Council, as well as Health Directors and the Community Health Representatives. This allowed each community to provide regular feedback on how they were handling the pandemic.

BRIGHT LIGHTS AWARDS

2021

The FHT organized facilities in the communities to do in-clinic, drive-through, and doorstep testing. The team administered vaccinations that ended outbreaks in several communities, with help from partners, instantly reducing active cases, and helping the entire area to avoid a Third Wave.

The team provided home supports to probable and confirmed COVID-19 cases through wellness checks, counselling, groceries, and health monitoring. Through pharmacy partnerships, they developed an addictions medicine dispensary so that members could receive their medications in the community. They performed at-home delivery for individuals in isolation. They also introduced two new Nurse Practitioners, each specializing in mental health and addictions.

Throughout the pandemic, the FHT has been in communication with other clinics, health care providers and system leaders, assisting them in implementing testing, offering vaccines and providing education.

Putting the patient first allowed Dilico FHT and Dilico AFC to identify gaps and find solutions.

Key Facts:

- With three communities in outbreak, the teams vaccinated 3,200 people within a month in 2021.
- Less than a month after Thunder Bay District peaked at a weekly rate of 263.4 cases per 100,000 and 403 active cases. This dropped to 32.7 cases per 100,000, and 149 active cases. Community outbreaks ended, and Dilico FHT and AFC played a critical role in this.
- Administered 20,000 vaccinations in 11 communities
- Implemented a new model where a Personal Support Worker (PSW) or a nurse will see the patient face to face, supported virtually by primary care
- Integrated the new NPs and their specialties into the FHT on an ongoing basis