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Medical Assessment Centre opens in Sudbury
Kashechewan Evacuees Assessed and Treated

TORONTO - Ontario's Emergency Medical Assistance Team has begun assessing and treating the medical needs of the evacuees from Kashechewan First Nation Reserve. The specialized unit is stationed in a dedicated area at the Sudbury airport.

"We are assessing the health of the people of Kashechewan to ensure the best possible care and support is accessible to all," said George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. "We continue to work closely with the community and our local health partners to address the immediate health needs of this community."

The Emergency Medical Assistance Team is a group of volunteer emergency medical professionals who are specifically trained to respond to major health emergencies. The team operates a self-sufficient 56-bed acute and intermediate care field unit with its own medical equipment and supplies, a communications centre, electricity and water.

"We appreciate the support and assistance we've received from local health officials" said Dr. Chris Mazza, CEO of Ontario Air Ambulance. "We are actively assessing the health of evacuees with the support of local health care and emergency personnel."

The EMAT is operated by Ontario Air Ambulance and was deployed within 24 hours at the request of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. This is the EMAT's first full-scale deployment since this special unit was established in January of 2004.

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