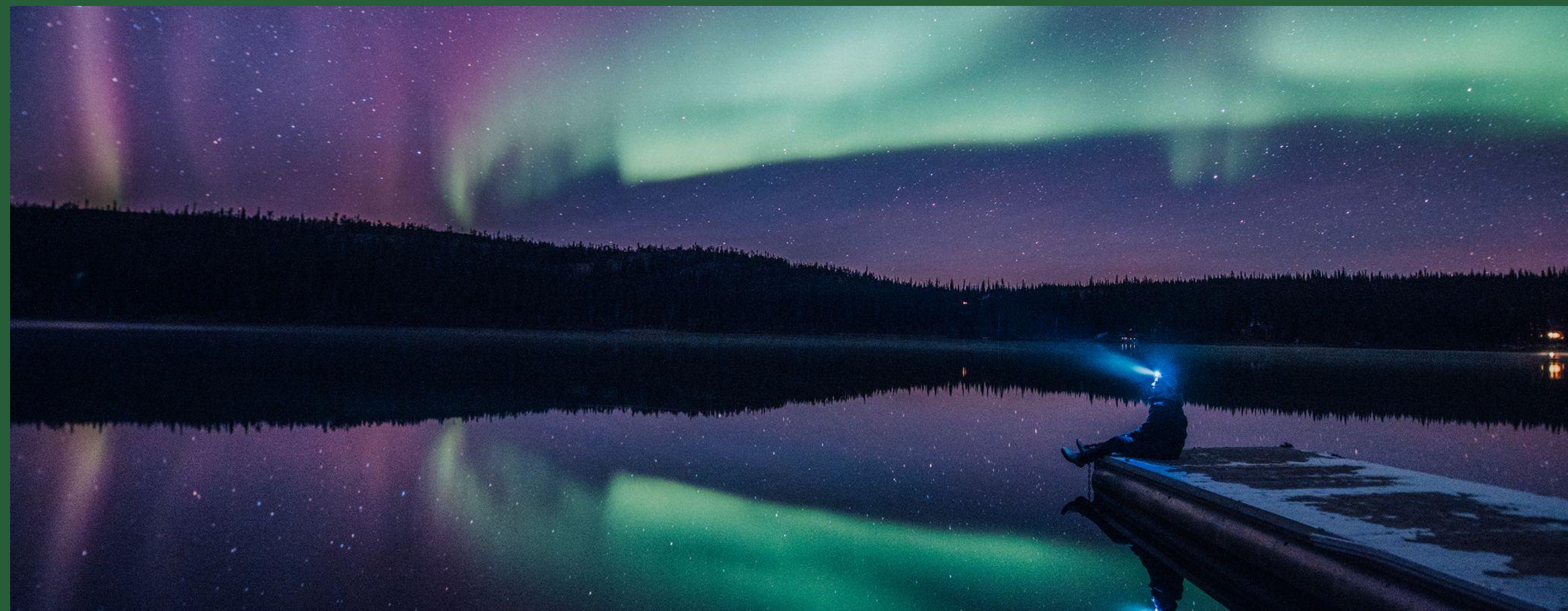




## INTRODUCTION

- Locums have been the main approach to address the shortage of family physicians (FP) in the Northwest Territories (NWT); however, a sustainable, long-term solution is needed.
- A decade in the making, the Yellowknife-Family Medicine (YK-FM) residency site was launched in 2020 through a partnership between the NWT Government and the Department of Family Medicine, University of Alberta.
- Creating a residency site based in the north was presumed to allow resident physicians to build connections with the local community and an identity as a northern physician, thereby increasing the likelihood that they would practice in the north.



## OBJECTIVES

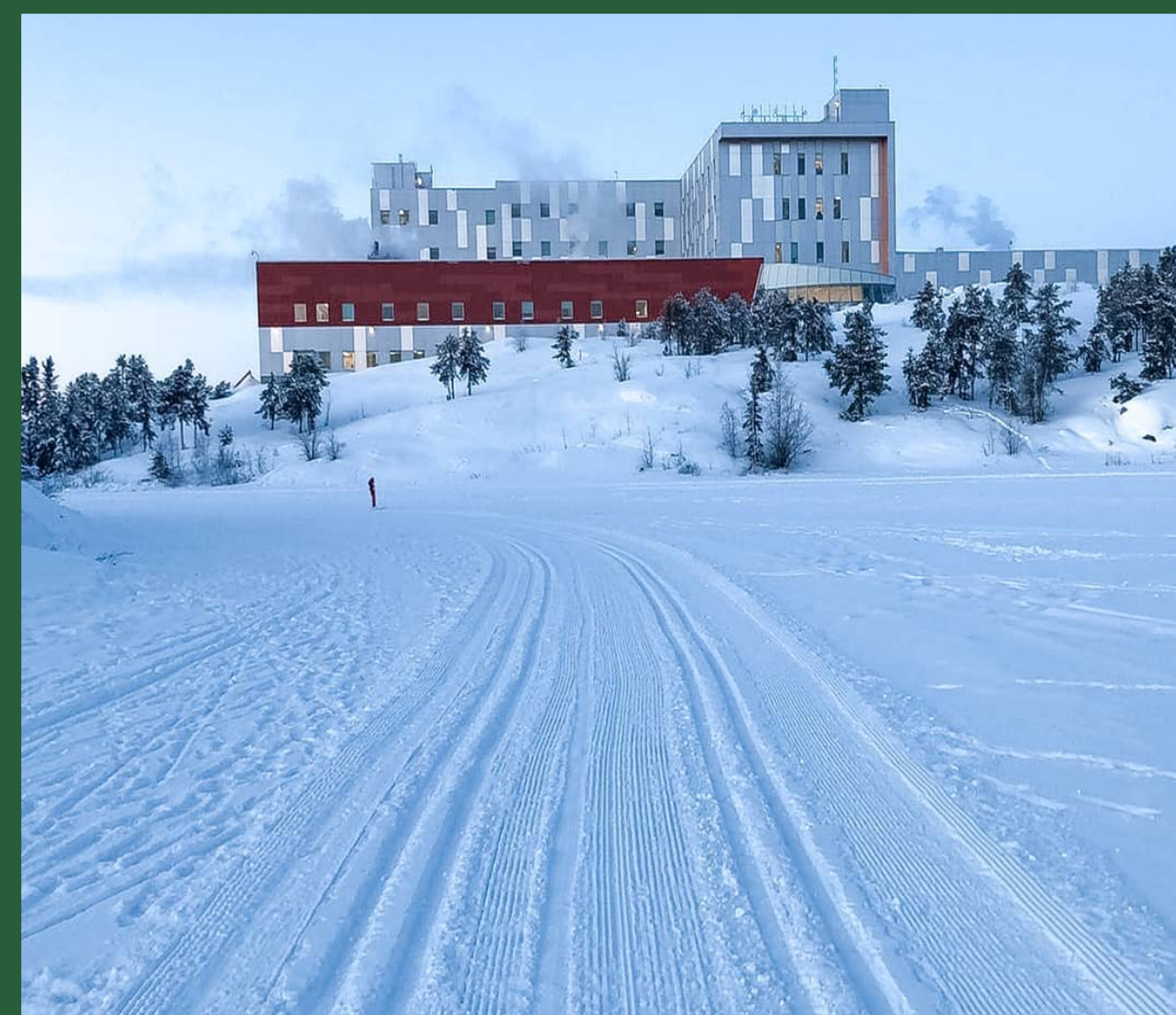


To longitudinally assess the impact of the YK-FM residency site on:

1. supply of northern practice-ready family physicians;
2. vacancy and retention rates for family physicians;
3. patient access to primary care health services; and
4. medical community satisfaction (including the culture of medical education and practice).

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The YK-FM site accepts two residents each year. The residents are based in Yellowknife and participate in a training program tailored to prepare them for practice in the north.

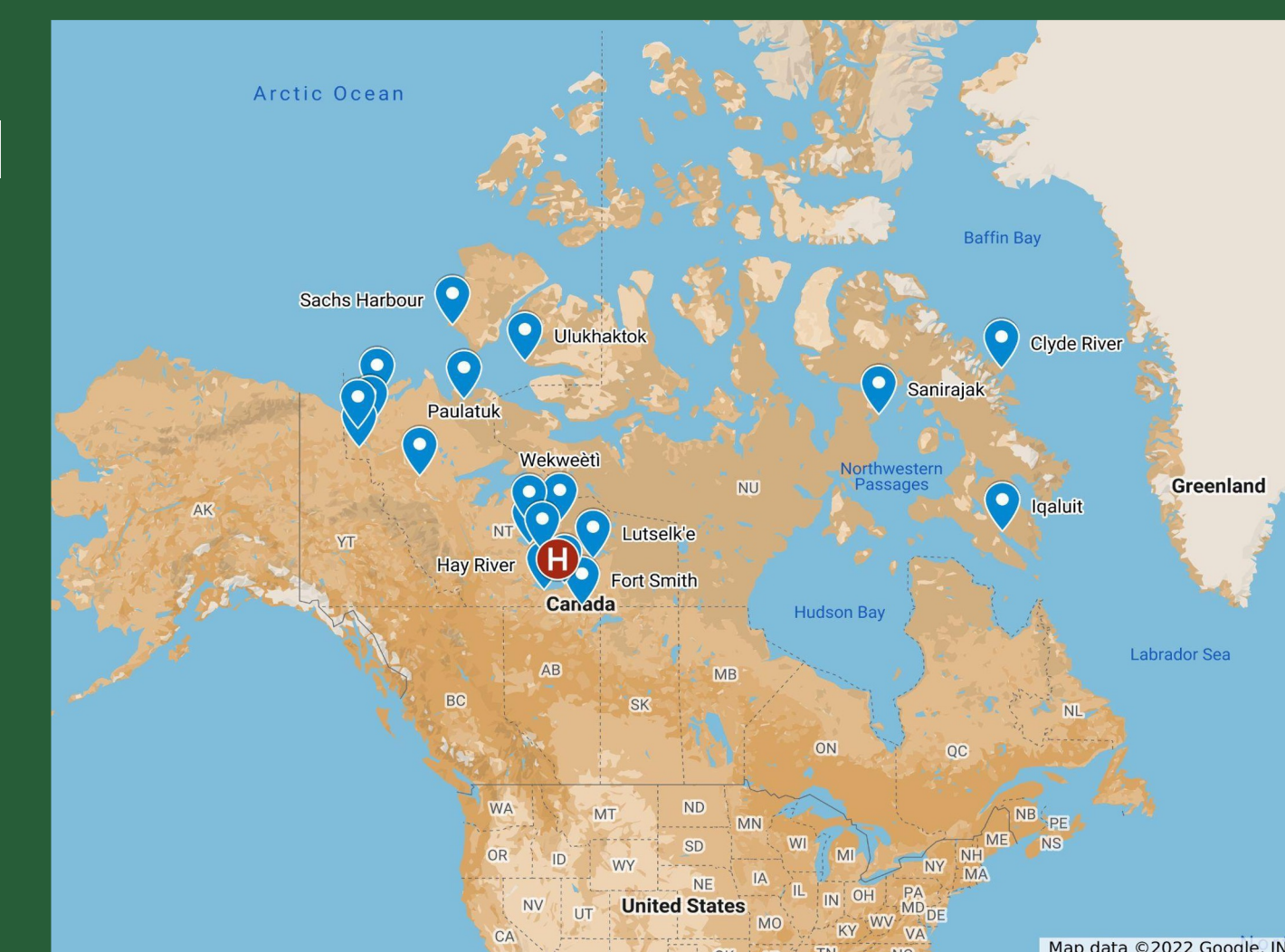


## STUDY PLAN

Objective	Participants/Data	Spring 2023	June 2023	June 2024	June 2025	June 2026
1. <i>Examine impact of YK-FM site on the supply of northern practice-ready family physicians</i>	YK-FM Graduates	· Interviews 2022 grads (n=2)	· Interviews 2023 grads (n=2)	· Interviews 2024 grads (n=2)	· Interviews 2025 grads (n=2)	· Interviews 2026 grads (n=2)
		· Demographic Survey 2022 grads (n=2)	· Demographic Survey 2023 grads (n=2) · Follow-up Survey (n=2 former 2022 grads)	· Demographic Survey 2024 grads (n=2) · Follow-up Survey (n=4 former 2022 & 2023 grads)	· Demographic Survey 2025 grads (n=2) · Follow-up Survey (n=6 former 2022, 2023 & 2024 grads)	· Demographic Survey 2026 grads (n=2) · Follow-up Survey (n=8 former 2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025 grads)
2. <i>Examine medical community satisfaction (including the culture of medical education and practice).</i>	YK Physicians	-	· Interviews (n=15 P)	-	· Interviews (n=15 P)	
	YK Allied Health Professionals	-	· Interviews (n=15 HP)	-	· Interviews (n=15 HP)	
3. <i>Examine vacancy and retention rates for physicians</i>	YK-NWT physician workforce summary data (2018-2026)	-	· Review of available physician workforce summary data	· Review of available physician workforce summary data	· Review of available physician workforce summary data	· Review of available physician workforce summary data
4. <i>Review of patient access to primary care health services</i>	YK-NWT health services access data (2018-2026)	-	· Review of health services access data	· Review of health services access data	· Review of health services access data	· Review of health services access data

## EARLY SUCCESSES

To date, anecdotal data indicate that residents have had a positive influence on the NWT medical system and community by:



- improving primary care screening;
- providing care in close to 20 small and remote communities;
- decreasing appointment wait times substantially in care teams with resident involvement; and
- providing medical service at critical times.

The first two residents graduated in 2022 and intend to practice medicine in the NWT; four residents are currently training at the site.

## CONCLUSION

Early successes have been shared and celebrated with the NWT community and leaders. Ongoing development and implementation of a curriculum to optimize learners' abilities to provide culturally respectful care is being organized in partnership with Indigenous leaders and educators in the community.

