



June 23, 2025

Catherine Joan Rae, Health Director  
Greta Meekis, BPSO Team Lead  
Sandy Lake First Nation Health Authority  
P.O. Box 20, Sandy Lake, Ontario P0V 1V0

Dear Joan and Greta, members of the Sandy Lake First Nation, and our awesome Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO) partner,

We are writing during a time of deep challenge and uncertainty, as the Red Lake 12 wildfire has forced many to leave behind homes, traditions, and loved spaces. Our hearts are with every member of your community who has been affected by this crisis.

We recognize the incredible strength and resilience you have shown in the face of this emergency. The courage demonstrated by elders, youth, families, and leaders alike is a powerful reflection of the spirit that defines Sandy Lake First Nation.

The fire may have disrupted your daily lives, but it has not broken your unity. Across the province and country, many stand with you – offering support, shelter, and resources in whatever ways we can. Whether through emergency response teams, community volunteers, or the families who have opened their doors, know that you are not facing this alone.

To those who are still displaced – we honour your patience, your strength, and your hope. Your well-being and safety remain the highest priorities. The path to recovery may be long, but it will be travelled together – step by step – with dignity, respect, and care.

When the time comes to return home, it is our hope that the support systems in place will help you rebuild structures, and the deep cultural and personal connections that make your community strong.

We at RNAO extend our deepest care and solidarity to every member of your community during this time of profound hardship. We are here to listen, to advocate, and to walk beside you.

We stand with you – nurses, health professionals, and partners across Ontario and beyond – committed to your health, healing and recovery.

With deep respect and solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doris Grinspun". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Doris Grinspun, RN, BScN, MSN, PhD,  
LLD(hon), Dr(hc), DHC, FAAN, FCAN, O.ONT.  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lhamo Dolkar". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with a prominent loop and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lhamo Dolkar RN(EC), CCN, MSc, NP-PHC  
President