

A Surgical Evolution

BRIDGING THE SURGICAL GAP IN NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO

For the 557, 000 people living in Northeastern Ontario, hearing "you need surgery" carries a burden most Ontarians don't face: the need to travel hundreds of kilometres from home. At Health Sciences North (HSN), we believe your focus should be on recovery and family, not the stress of a long journey outside of the region.

TOGETHER FOR YOU
in Surgical Evolution

Fondation HSN Foundation



The Distance to Care

Mike's Journey from Diagnosis to Recovery

Mike's journey is one of hundreds. Every year, patients across Northeastern Ontario face this same reality.



For years, Mike was the anchor of his family and an active member of his community. But in November 2024, at age 62, a prostate cancer diagnosis meant leaving the home and community he had spent a lifetime building just to access the care he needed. Although he was relieved his surgery would be performed using the Da Vinci robotic system, that technology was unavailable in Sudbury.

Instead, Mike's cancer journey began on the 400-series highways. Having previously supported a family member through surgery in Southern Ontario, he knew the anxiety of unfamiliar city streets, being far from loved ones, and navigating treatment without a local support system.





Mike's experience reflects that of hundreds of patients across Northeastern Ontario every year. Beyond their cancer diagnosis, they face dangerous winter travel, added financial costs, and the emotional strain of being away from family—burdens that should never be part of receiving cancer care.

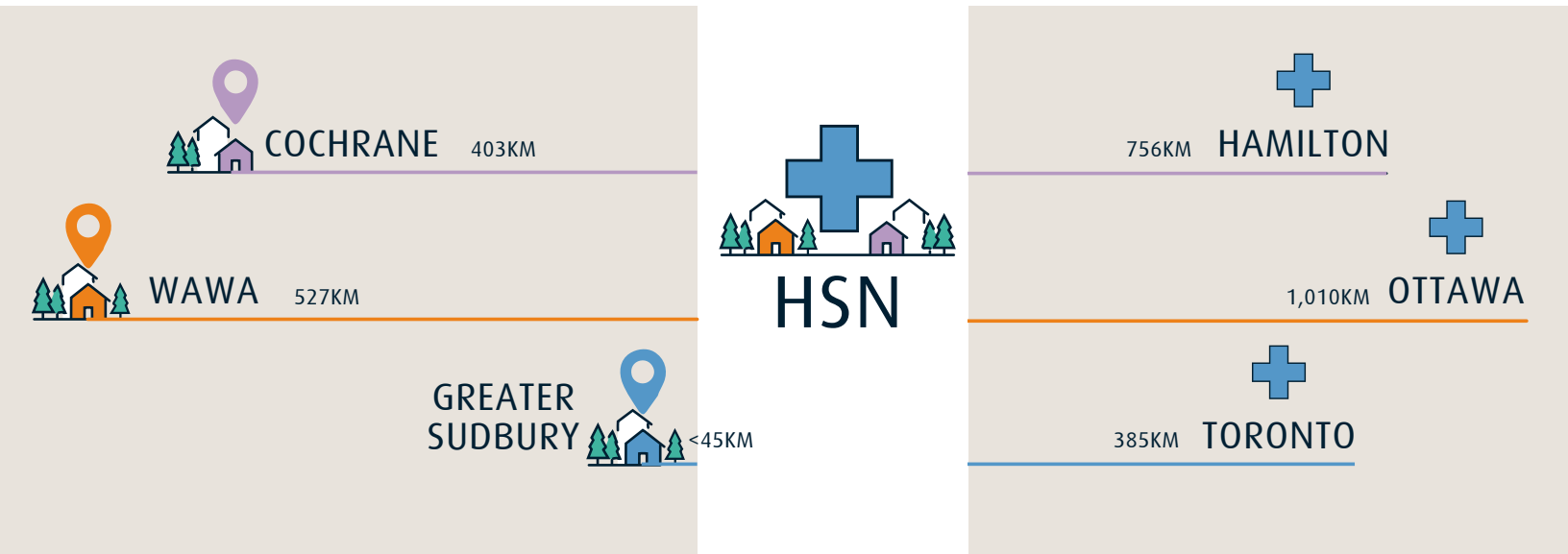
For his own procedure, Mike was fortunate to stay with family in Burlington, but the logistical challenges remained significant. Over six months, he and his wife made four trips south. The lowest point came just 24 hours before surgery, when a last-minute cancellation forced them to turn around and drive five hours back to Sudbury, only to repeat the journey weeks later.

When the robotic-assisted surgery finally took place on June 30, it delivered on its promise. Within 45 minutes of leaving recovery, Mike was walking the halls. As someone who enjoys cycling, skiing, hiking, and walking year-round, the minimally invasive procedure helped preserve his quality of life by reducing complications and speeding his recovery.

Today, Mike is doing well. He is sharing his story because he believes Northeastern Ontario should no longer be the only region in Ontario without this technology. Bringing robotic-assisted surgery to HSN will ensure future patients can receive the standard of care they deserve—close to home.

"To be able to return to your own home, with your family around you and familiar surroundings, makes all the difference. Lori was just happy when it was over and she saw me walking in the hospital corridor after the operation."

– Mike,
Prostate Cancer Survivor



Bridging the Surgical Gap in Northeastern Ontario

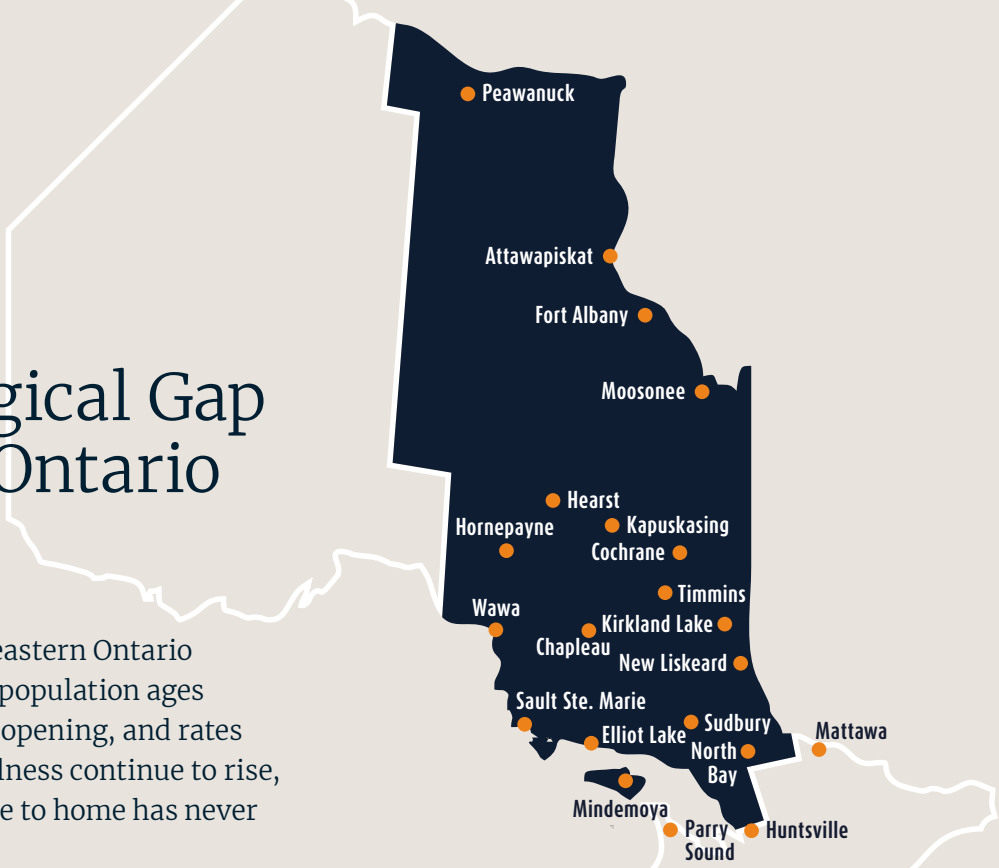
Where you live should never determine the quality of healthcare you receive.

More than 557,000 people across Northeastern Ontario rely on HSN for specialized care. As our population ages and grows with new mining operations opening, and rates of cardiovascular disease and chronic illness continue to rise, the need for advanced surgical care close to home has never been greater.

Yet today, HSN remains the only regional referral centre in Ontario without:

- a specialized surgical robot
- a fixed imaging suite (hybrid operating room)

These technologies are no longer considered optional at leading hospitals. They are the standard for surgical care.



Patients Are Forced to Travel

Every year:

- more than 150 HSN patients with prostate, lung, or kidney cancer travel south for surgery
- patients and families make multiple trips over weeks or months
- thousands of kilometres are travelled during treatment and recovery

For many families, that means long trips through treacherous winter conditions, navigating unfamiliar cities, paying for hotels, taking time away from work, and recovering far from home and support systems.

Why This Matters

Without access to modern surgical technology:

- some procedures are more invasive and require longer recovery times
- patients face higher risks of complications and longer hospital stays
- surgeons and specialists are increasingly drawn to hospitals with advanced surgical infrastructure

Government funding alone does not cover the cost of this transformational equipment. Philanthropy will make this surgical evolution possible for patients and families across Northeastern Ontario.

Supporting this campaign isn't just about equipment. It's about equity, dignity, patient safety, and ensuring world-class care stays local.

Together, we can bridge the surgical gap in Northeastern Ontario and transform care for generations to come.

Bringing Advanced Cancer Surgery Closer to Home



Traditional Surgery	VS	Robotic Surgery
Large	INCISIONS	Tiny
Long	RECOVERY	Short
More	PAIN	Less
Long	HOSPITAL STAYS	Short

Robotic-Assisted Surgery for Precision Healing

Robotic-assisted surgery has transformed cancer care around the world and **is** now considered the standard of care for many prostate, gynecological, colorectal, and urological procedures.

A surgical robot allows surgeons to perform procedures through tiny openings instead of large incisions. The system provides greater precision, control, and range of motion than the human hand alone, helping surgeons operate with incredible accuracy while minimizing trauma to the body.

For patients, that means:

- smaller incisions
- less pain
- lower risk of infection
- fewer complications
- shorter hospital stays
- faster recovery close to home
- fewer follow-up surgeries

That precision can also dramatically improve quality of life after surgery by reducing complications such as incontinence, erectile dysfunction, and bowel dysfunction.

For patients across Northeastern Ontario, this technology means access to world-class surgical care without leaving the region.



Your Impact

Your gift will:

- ☑ Help up to 350 Northeastern Ontario patients each year access advanced cancer surgery closer to home.
- ☑ Reduce stressful travel to Toronto, Ottawa, and Kingston during cancer treatment and recovery.
- ☑ Help patients recover faster with less pain, fewer complications, and shorter hospital stays.
- ☑ Improve long-term quality of life through more precise, minimally invasive surgery.
- ☑ Attract leading surgeons and ensure future generations can access world-class care in the North.

Life-Saving Care When Every Second Matters

A Fixed Imaging Suite

When a patient arrives at HSN with a stroke, aneurysm, blocked artery, or other life-threatening vascular condition, every second matters.

A fixed imaging suite combines advanced imaging technology and surgery in one specialized space. This allows care teams to diagnose, plan, and perform complex procedures immediately without moving critically ill patients between departments.

The result is faster treatment, safer procedures, fewer complications, and better outcomes for patients across Northeastern Ontario.

"Like going from the Stone Age to the Space Age. Like going from a traditional operating room to the Star Ship Enterprise."

— Dr. Santosh Pudupakkam, Vascular Surgeon, HSN

With real-time 3D imaging, surgeons can see blood vessels and arteries with extraordinary clarity during surgery. This allows them to guide instruments with incredible precision, often through tiny incisions that reduce trauma to the body and help patients recover faster.

For many patients, this technology can mean the difference between:

- losing a limb or saving it
- surviving a vascular emergency or not
- undergoing major open surgery or receiving a minimally invasive procedures with better outcomes

This technology is especially critical in Northern Ontario, where rates of cardiovascular disease remain among the highest in the province. As the regional Thoracic Surgery Centre, HSN plays a vital role in delivering urgent, specialized care for patients across the Northeast.



Your Impact

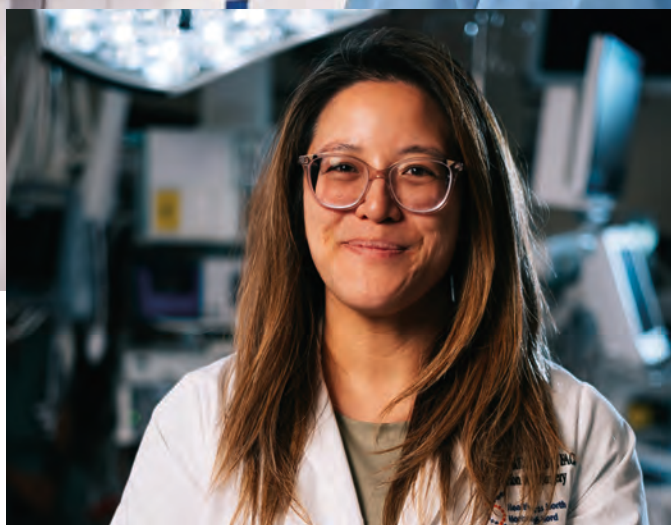
Your gift will:

- ☑ Help save lives by improving care for patients experiencing strokes, aneurysms, and vascular emergencies.
- ☑ Reduce the need for invasive surgery and lower the risk of complications, amputations, and cardiac stress.
- ☑ Give surgeons the ability to respond faster during complex emergencies and trauma cases.
- ☑ Expand life-saving treatment options for patients who were previously considered inoperable.
- ☑ Provide advanced specialized care closer to home for up to 150 patients annually across Northeastern Ontario while helping attract leading surgical specialists to the region.

"Bringing robotic-assisted surgery to HSN is about equity, ensuring that every patient in the Northeast has access to the latest surgical advancements close to home, where they are most comfortable."

— Dr. James Masters, Thoracic Surgeon, HSN





Bringing World-Class Surgical Care to the North

Top-tier surgeons and healthcare professionals are drawn to hospitals equipped with advanced technology and modern surgical environments. Today, surgical robotics and hybrid operating rooms are considered standard infrastructure at leading centres across Ontario.

Without this technology, Northeastern Ontario risks losing exceptional surgical talent and limiting access to advanced care for future generations.

As Northeastern Ontario's academic health sciences centre and teaching hospital, HSN is also the training ground for future surgeons through NOSM University and other educational institutions. Healthcare professionals who train here are more likely to build their careers here — strengthening care across the North for years to come.

By investing in this technology, HSN will strengthen its ability to:

- recruit and retain exceptional surgical teams
- expand specialized surgical services
- support advanced procedures in cardiac, bariatric, and trauma surgery
- advance clinical research and innovation
- train the next generation of healthcare professionals in Northern Ontario

"Without this technology, good surgeons are leaving HSN or choosing not to come here. We want the very best for our patients."

— Dr. Grace Ma, Colorectal Surgeon and Research Scientist, HSN



"We serve patients from Parry Sound to Elliot Lake to James Bay and beyond. We're the only major hospital left in Ontario without this technology. Patients should not have to travel to Toronto for care they deserve here at home."

— Dr. Jeff Yao, Urologist, HSN

JOIN THE SURGICAL EVOLUTION

Philanthropy is at the heart of the Surgical Evolution campaign.

Government funding alone cannot provide the advanced surgical technology needed to meet the growing healthcare needs of Northeastern Ontario. Community support will make this transformational investment possible.

Your support will help bring world-class surgical care closer to home for patients and families across the Northeast.

Together, we can:

- Reduce the need for vulnerable patients to travel during cancer treatment
- Improve outcomes for patients facing strokes, aneurysms, and other urgent health emergencies
- Recruit and retain exceptional surgical talent
- Ensure patients recover closer to family, community, and support systems
- Transform the future of surgical care in Northern Ontario

With this technology, patients across Northeastern Ontario will have access to some of the most advanced surgical care available in Canada — right here at home.

Families will spend less time on highways and more time focused on healing. Surgeons will have the tools they need to deliver world-class care, and patients will recover surrounded by the people and communities who matter most.

Together, we can ensure no patient in Northeastern Ontario has to leave home for advanced surgical care simply because of where they live.

Together, we can transform Surgical Care in Northeastern Ontario. Donate Today.

Health Sciences North Foundation
41 Ramsey Lake Road, Centre Tower, Level 2
Greater Sudbury, Ontario P3E 5J1 705-523-7130 **HSNFoundation.com/Surgical-Evolution**