

New Build Update

A quarterly update on the New Grandview Kids



As of August 2024, construction on the New Grandview Kids is progressing rapidly, with Level 1 over 85 per cent complete and one elevator operational. Levels 2, 3 and 4 are over 90 per cent complete, with all elevators expected to be fully operational by the end of August. The exterior of the building is structurally complete; the façade is over 90 per cent finished. The countdown is on for our Fall opening. Our construction partners and staff are busy preparing the site for occupancy in the coming months. [Read more about Operational Readiness.](#)



Grandview School classroom



Therapy space



Therapy space

Underground site services

The project spans over two parcels of land: the original parcel and a smaller parcel intended for parking. The original parcel is completed, with work underway for the second, smaller parcel, including the installation of an underground storm water tank. Paving and line painting is scheduled for completion by the end of August.

Sensory Trail

Our outdoor, fully accessible trail is 90 per cent complete, with wood and asphalt pathways recently completed. Additional trees and bushes will soon be planted to bring the trail to full completion.



Outdoor Sensory Trail

Generating excitement amongst Team Grandview



The new Grandview Kids headquarters is a vibrant blend of cutting-edge design and thoughtful amenities, all coming together to create a warm and welcoming environment for clients, community partners, visitors and staff. The building's four floors are filled with incredible rooms, designed to meet the diverse needs of the community, while the atrium's coloured glass wall bathes the space in natural light - a feature that many find particularly inspiring.

"Each time [I visit], I get more and more excited about the move. The natural light is wonderful," shared Christine, Grandview Kids Program Manager. The walls - adorned in warm, vibrant colours - and the colourful, patterned floors, contribute to an atmosphere that is the perfect mix of professional and whimsical.

A standout feature is the outdoor terrace, offering staff a peaceful retreat where they can unwind, while gazing over the Sensory Trail woods and the surrounding community.

"The therapy rooms, gymnasium, terrace and playground area are going to be great," said Vishruti, a Physiotherapist, reflecting the enthusiasm shared by many who toured the facility. Grandview Kids' Operational Readiness Team has been guiding staff, volunteers, physicians and students through these spaces, providing a tangible sense of the exciting new chapter ahead. As Program Manager, Cherie, expressed, *"This has been our dream for a long time, so I am very excited to finally be at this stage of seeing the dream come to life!"*

Our new headquarters is more than just a building; it's a realization of a vision that will continue to benefit clients and the community for years to come.

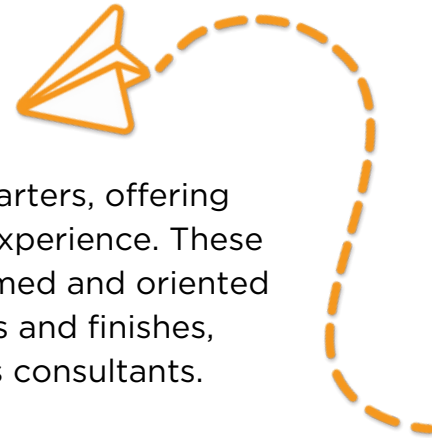


Staff touring the new site



Members Grandview's leadership team in the pool

Designing our new headquarters: Interior finishes and wayfinding



Wayfinding is a cornerstone of the new Grandview Kids headquarters, offering intuitive, visually appealing guidance that enhances the visitor experience. These information systems are designed to make everyone feel welcomed and oriented within the space. The design choices, including furniture, fixtures and finishes, were crafted in collaboration with staff, partners and Indigenous consultants.

Upon entering The Jerry Coughlan Building — named in honour of a generous supporter whose legacy gift helped fund the facility — you are greeted by a striking atrium. This central hub is more than just a waiting area; it's a lively meeting space featuring a café and custom art installation. The Family Resource Centre, within the atrium, provides essential resources and support to caregivers, including a branch of the Ajax Public Library.



Glass wall in atrium



Atrium and Café

The interior design, inspired by nature, seamlessly integrates the outdoors with features such as a river-like floor design and tree-like columns. The theme of circles subtly emerges, with circular windows and flooring reflecting the nests, cocoons, and burrows that birds, insects, and animals call home—just as Grandview Kids feels like home to many.

Illuminated departmental entryways showcase unique wayfinding icons and names inspired by Anishinaabe teachings, adding cultural depth to the practical guidance they provide. Modern design features, playful details, and an emphasis on inclusive, accessible spaces further enhance the facility.

[Click here](#) to watch a video about how we chose our unique design features at the New Grandview Kids, including the significant meaning behind our wayfinding icons.

Our wayfinding icons

At Grandview Kids, we honour Indigenous heritage by embracing the spiritual teachings of the Seven Clans in the order of creation. In collaboration with Indigenous partners, our team selected icons to represent different departments in our new headquarters, each reflecting these profound teachings. Birds in flight were selected for spaces where people will work, whereas animals and insects are assigned to spaces for clients, families and the community.

The Learning Centre is symbolized by **wolves**, embodying loyalty, family bonds and humility from the Seven Grandfather Teachings. The Pool features a **salmon**, representing determination and the community's nourishment. An **owl**, known for wisdom and spiritual knowledge, guides the Grandview School's wayfinding.

Therapy Services are marked by a **butterfly** and **dragonfly**, symbols of transformation, hope and living life fully. The **Sandhill crane** represents our Partnership Space, signifying persistence, leadership and peacemaking. Medical Services are symbolized by a **bear and cubs**, epitomizing strength and bravery. Building Services, often working behind-the-scenes, are represented by a **rabbit**, denoting sensitivity and new beginnings. The Level 4 Staff Office features a **hummingbird**, while the Level 1 Executive Office is symbolized by an **eagle**. Together, they emphasize humility and mutual respect. Outside, the Sensory Trail is marked by a **deer**, an icon of kindness and positive spiritual presence.

Together, these symbols represent the story of Grandview Kids and those we serve, guiding the way through our new "home." We express deep gratitude to our Indigenous partners for their guidance in our design process, honouring the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg lands, waters and skies that Grandview Kids is privileged to exist within.

