



## The Importance of Collaboration and Reconciliation with the Indigenous Communities Considering Adopting Artificial Intelligence in Eye Screening

Supporting the health of those living in remote and rural communities is a key element of Orbis Canada's artificial intelligence (AI) screening project. Many of those living in these communities are Indigenous—including First Nations, Inuit or Metis. Working in collaboration with Indigenous communities, including partnering with Indigenous-led health organizations, is essential to the success of this project. In order to meet the needs of these communities, members must not only be at the table, but guiding the conversation.

At Orbis Canada, our board member, Robert Byers, a member of the Little Black Bear First Nation and President and CEO of Regina's Namerind Housing Corporation, sees the essential role that AI can play in meeting the needs of his community.

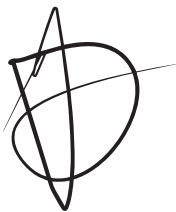
He shares his thoughts below:

*It is important to me to be on the board of an organization that works to increase access to eye care for the people most in need around the world and here in Canada. In this country, that means working with community members and partners who are passionate about ensuring essential eye care is delivered to remote communities, where the majority of the population is often Indigenous.*

*As the people of Canada work to understand what reconciliation means to us as Indigenous Peoples, it is exciting to know that Orbis Canada is focusing on and finding ways to connect with remote communities in a meaningful way. As an Indigenous Canadian, I see these actions as reconciliation through health and eye care.*

*In this project, which uses artificial intelligence to assess patients and then send that information to ophthalmologists in the southern regions of Canada, I believe we are leaders. What is even more remarkable is that we can train people in remote communities to use this technology, creating opportunities for Indigenous healthcare teams to support the needs of their people. And with continuing technology advancements, we can provide accurate information to determine the individual needs of patients in ways that reduce the burden of unnecessary travel and ensure they receive quality, tailored assessments close to home.*

*This is a powerful opportunity for Northern communities, and one which creates a potential pathway to bring other healthcare innovations to those in remote and rural communities. The positive impact that comes from investing in these communities and collaborating services across sectors is immeasurable. To me, this is true reconciliation, and I am proud to be a member of Orbis Canada.*



**Robert Byers**  
Director, Orbis Canada

*Changing the way  
the world sees.*