

# Closing the Hearing Gap in Rural Alberta

**43%** of Indigenous people over 7 years old have measurable hearing loss

**7.1 year** drop in life expectancy among First Nations between 2019-2021

## What Hearing Impacts:

- Speech
- Learning
- Mental Health
- Social Connections



## Barriers:

- Remote Access
- Limited Specialists
- Cost of Travel
- Discrimination in Care



## The Solution: eConsult ENT Pathways



Patient sees  
Local Provider

Provider sends Secure  
eConsult to ENT  
Specialist for Treatment

Local Provider  
Treats Patient

- ✓ Reduces Unnecessary Referrals & Travel
- ✓ Keeps Care Local with Trusted Practitioner
- ✓ Provides Faster Care
- ✓ Builds Provider Knowledge



Also promotes  
prevention  
through early  
detection and  
community  
education

**Empowering Rural Providers. Protecting Lifelong Hearing.**