



TRIBAL COUNCILS INVESTMENT GROUP
OF MANITOBA LTD.

THE SPIRIT GROUP ACQUIRES MULTI-SERVICE HEALTHCARE COMPANY - GRAND MEDICINE HEALTH SERVICES LTD.

Acquisition allows First Nations-owned healthcare group of companies to expand services.

Winnipeg, MB. March 8, 2019 - The Spirit Group, a First Nations-owned healthcare group affiliated with Tribal Councils Investment Group of Manitoba Ltd., announced today it has acquired Grand Medicine Health Services Ltd. - a leader in providing pharmacy and healthcare services and supplies to remote communities. This acquisition enables The Spirit Group to deliver on its vision of repatriating and targeting investments back into the communities, in order to improve health outcomes for Indigenous peoples.

"The Spirit Group embodies the concept of 'Indigenomics'- the practice of bringing an Indigenous perspective to economic and social development," said Heather Berthelette, Chief Executive Officer of Tribal Councils Investment Group of Manitoba. "The Spirit Group's business model and overall vision are to advance and equalize healthcare for Indigenous people by supporting and giving back to the communities. The Spirit Group's acquisition of Grand Medicine provides another opportunity to expand our healthcare initiatives."

Grand Medicine is a multi-service healthcare company meeting the needs of rural and remote communities throughout Manitoba, Nunavut and northwestern Ontario. Grand Medicine provides pharmacy, medical supply and equipment services and offers free prescription delivery anywhere in Manitoba. Under The Spirit Group's ownership, Grand Medicine's team of 60 people will continue to provide the same leading quality service they have provided over the last 15 years.

"We experience success when we invest in our own business models, our own enterprises," said Chief Dennis Meeches, Chairman of the Tribal Councils Investment Group of Manitoba. "The acquisition of Grand Medicine is another important step towards economic independence and more control over the health outcomes in our communities. Additionally, as The Spirit Group grows, so does its business leadership and our capacity to train a new generation of business leaders."

"We're thrilled to continue our part in servicing the health and wellness of remote communities," said Gail Halko, Director of Operations for Grand Medicine. "We share The Spirit Group's vision of economic reconciliation."

About the Spirit Group

The Spirit Group is a First Nations-owned healthcare group of companies affiliated with Tribal Councils Investment Group of Manitoba Ltd., operating since 2015.

The Spirit Group's first company, Spirit Pharmaceuticals, introduced the first Indigenous-branded diabetes meter and related products to the Canadian market - the "Spirit Meter".



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SPIRIT
Pharmaceuticals Ltd.



ARA
Pharmaceuticals Inc.

It was born out of a desire to create a group of companies that would service a different business model, a model that would better serve health outcomes for Indigenous communities, the Spirit Business Model. The core of the Spirit Business Model is a focus on commitment, support to our communities. The term “Indigenomics”, coined by Carol Ann Hilton, is defined as “the practice of bringing an Indigenous perspective to economic and social development”. The Spirit Group of companies is an example of Indigenomics in practice.

The Spirit Group of companies include:

- Spirit Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
- ARA Pharmaceuticals Inc.
- SpiritRx Solutions Inc.
- Grand Medicine Health Services Ltd. (recent acquisition)

About Grand Medicine

Grand Medicine is a distance care pharmacy, medical supply and equipment company based in Winnipeg. Led by Gail Halko, Director of Operations since 2003, Grand Medicine delivers distance healthcare services to over 50 remote communities as far as 1,400 km from Winnipeg. Grand Medicine handles almost 60,000 orders per year.

About Tribal Councils Investment Group of Manitoba Ltd.

Tribal Councils Investment Group of Manitoba Ltd. was formed in 1990 by seven Tribal Councils in Manitoba, with a strong mission to contribute to the self-sufficiency and prosperity of First Nations and future generations. The company is committed to building a new Indigenous-led business model that focuses on community health and wellness. Tribal Councils Investment Group’s shareholders represent approximately 130,000 members of Manitoba First Nations.

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Contact:

Lisa Bernstein

Dooley PR

lisa@dooleypr.com

(204) 292-8615



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