



## CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY & BEYOND

Jan & Cheryll Welke, High Level Valu Drugs I.D.A.

For over 40 years, High Level Valu Drugs I.D.A. has been fulfilling the pharmacy needs of its community and surrounding area.

Owners Jan and Cheryll Welke have a long history with the business—the store was Jan's first job after graduating 22 years ago. He never left, and eventually, he and his wife bought the business in 2009.

"The business grew and developed as community needs arose. We provide above-and-beyond services to the remote communities surrounding our town, including daily prescription deliveries and professional services to local First Nations and Métis communities, Rainbow Lake and Zama City," said Cheryll.

The store is in the unique position of being the only drugstore in town,

which means that when it comes to pharmacy-related needs, I.D.A. fills them all.

"Every day, we step up to the challenge of trying to fulfill any need one would expect to find at a pharmacy. We can't borrow something from someone down the street, so we often have to be a little more creative. We're always problem-solving," said Jan.

With the store's heavy work load—"as busy as the busiest pharmacy in the city," according to Jan—they are constantly looking for ways to become more efficient and to better meet the needs of their customers. One of the ways they do that are in-person visits to clients in remote communities, many of which are more than 100 km away. They also have a section of their store dedicated to homecare and medical supplies.

"We have a specialized department and staff who deal with wheelchairs and walkers, fitting compression stockings and more. That's another aspect that wasn't available up here before," said Jan.

Besides the pharmacy, their store also has an extensive giftware section and art gallery. It features art, clothing and other hand-crafted items from local artists, especially local Indigenous artists (retailing items from the Esâwa Gift Gallery). They also recently partnered with Hallmark, becoming a Gold Crown Store.

"Keeping it local and independent has been a priority. We are really fortunate to have the support from the surrounding communities, and we support them, as well. Our vision is to continue that with pride," said Cheryll.

