

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Sudbury and Area Patient Care to Benefit From Twelve Month Extension** *Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) Supports North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) Using Hôpital régional de Sudbury Regional Hospital (HRSRH) Memorial Site to Care for ALC Patients*

**Sudbury, Ontario -- Friday September 18, 2009** – The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) is confirming support for the NE LHIN's innovative bed strategy that includes using the Memorial Site of Hôpital régional de Sudbury Regional Hospital (HRSRH) to address the current long-term care home bed shortage in Sudbury and area. The agreed upon solution will see Memorial Site used temporarily to care for ALC patients for a period of up to 12 additional months pending the hospital's transition to one site in early 2010. The Memorial Site was to close as the HRSRH moves to consolidating its acute services to a single site.

For the past several months, senior leaders from the NE LHIN, the MOHLTC, the hospital and the Sudbury ALC Community Steering Group have been meeting to analyze options and decrease the funding required to support a solution.

The NE LHIN will be directing the hospital to continue with its plans to transition to one site, to plan on using the Memorial Site to care for its ALC patients, and to continue to work with its partners to finalize the details of the strategy.

Patient care and the safety of patients will continue to guide the work of the NE LHIN and the MOHLTC in their ongoing discussions to confirm the funding details. The opening of the 128 bed St. Gabriel's long-term care home in Chelmsford and the 64 bed Pioneer Manor in Sudbury in 2010 will continue to be viewed as critical components to the solution's final details around the use of the Memorial Site.

#### **QUOTES:**

##### **NE LHIN Interim Chair, Peter Vaudry**

Interim Chair Peter Vaudry noted, "This is great news for the health and wellness of the people of Sudbury and all across North East Ontario who are served by our regional hospital. Patient care has driven our work to date and it will continue to be the main area of focus as we finalize the details of this strategy. Dr. Zalan and the ALC Community Steering Group, Sudbury Regional Board Chair Carol Hartman and her Board directors, and all partners involved in this complex issue are to be commended for their work," noted NE LHIN Interim Chair, Peter Vaudry.

##### **Sudbury MPP Rick Bartolucci**

"Our government continues to work with LHINS and local partners to find solutions that best fit the unique needs of our community," said Sudbury MPP Rick Bartolucci. "Ensuring seamless and accessible health care for Sudburians will remain a priority of the McGuinty government. Today's announcement is the latest example of that commitment."

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### **Hôpital régional de Sudbury Regional Hospital (HRSRH) Board Chair, Carol Hartman**

“The HRSRH can now move forward with its plans to successfully bring together all acute care hospital services on a single site,” stated HRSRH Board Chair, Carol Hartman. “This is good news for our hospital patients and ALC patients who will receive the care they need from our community. On behalf of the staff and physicians at the HRSRH who want only to provide the best care possible for our patients, we applaud the NE LHIN for supporting the Memorial Site option,” said Hartman.

### **ALC Community Steering Group Co-Chair, Dr. Peter Zalan**

“On behalf of our patients, I thank all the participants who have worked hard to achieve a successful outcome. It is vindication for our community's efforts to develop a "made-in-Sudbury" solution. It shows what can be done when we focus our energies and work collaboratively for the common good.”

### **QUICK FACTS**

- Currently there are approximately 97 ALC patients in acute care beds at HRSRH and 24 patients in NE LHIN funded transitional care beds.
- Initiatives of the Sudbury ALC Community Steering Group that are targeted at reducing ALC numbers will continue including: ALC Wrap Around Services, 24 Transitional Beds, Aging at Home projects, Nurse-led Outreach Team.

### **LEARN MORE**

- For more detailed information on this release please contact: Cynthia Stables, NE LHIN Senior Corporate Advisor, (705) 845-1887.
- View **Backgrounder on ALC in the NE LHIN** attached to this release.

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Ontario

Local Health Integration  
Network

Réseau local d'intégration  
des services de santé

## **Backgrounder**

### *Sudbury and Area Patient Care to Benefit From Twelve Month Extension*

September 18, 2009

ALC is defined as patient care provided in an acute care setting that could appropriately be delivered in an alternate setting, such as home care, long term care, or a rehabilitation centre.

#### **Facts:**

- The North East LHIN has the highest rate of ALC patients of any LHIN across the province.
- NE LHIN has the second highest proportion of seniors age 65 plus across the province at 16.5%.
- It is projected that NE LHIN will have a 24% increase in its senior population, age 65+, between 2006 and 2016, from 16.5% to 20.4%

#### **Examples of NE LHIN Work To Date:**

- Established ALC as a priority (December 2007).
- Established four ALC Task Forces (Timmins, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie and North Bay) to conduct detailed analysis of ALC issue (concluding report – December, 2007).
- Supported/facilitated creation of four ALC Working Groups which serve urban areas most impacted by ALC – Sudbury, North Bay, Sault Ste Marie, Timmins.
- Developed optimal configuration of community-based residential options and appropriate programs within those settings. Senior's Housing Study, commissioned by NE LHIN (November, 2008)

#### **Sudbury ALC Community Steering Group**

- The ALC Community Steering Group was formed in December 2008.
- Group draws on the expertise within each represented organization to develop concrete plans to move key priorities forward. Members of the Group include representatives from: NE LHIN, Sudbury Physician Group, Hôpital Régional Sudbury Regional Hospital, City of Greater Sudbury, NE CCAC, Community Support Services.
- Group developed 10 point priority plan in January, 2009 to help resolve ALC challenge in Sudbury and area.
- All priorities are actively moving forward, including:
  - supportive housing;
  - alternate care/housing options using current capacity;
  - bed capacity challenges associated with single site initiatives and transition needs;
  - specialized services development;
  - integrated care pathways project;

- implementing the registered nurse long-term care home outreach program;
- enhancing primary care services in the home setting;
- health human resource challenges: recruitment and retention;
- role of prevention and promotion; and
- long- term care bed needs analysis.

#### **Examples of NE LHIN ALC Funding To Date:**

- During the 2007/08 and 2008/09 fiscal years, the NE LHIN applied close to \$10M in funding towards ALC.
- Applied **Aging at Home** money to establish programs and services across the region that will allow seniors to live in their own homes longer.
  - Year 1 (2008/2009) of Strategy: \$4.2 million (\$1.2 million went towards funding projects with the Manitoulin-Sudbury Planning Area)
  - Year 2 (2009/2010) of Strategy: \$6.4 million (\$830,000 for Manitoulin Sudbury; not including \$750,000 for the Regional Geriatric Program which will be of direct benefit to the Sudbury)
  - Year 3: (2010/2011): Funding to be announced.

#### **Other Sudbury and Area Specific Funding:**

- Continued funding for 24 transitional care beds in Sudbury (\$645,000).
- Establishment of Regional Geriatric Program (\$400,000 for 2008/2009 for program development; continued operations through Year 2 Aging at Home funding).
- \$288,000 for implementation of ALC Wrap-Around Program (December, 2008).

#### **Example of successful Aging at Home Project:**

In 2008/2009, the North East LHIN provided \$75,000 in Aging at Home funding to the Sudbury Regional Hospital to implement an **Identification of Seniors-at-Risk Screening Tool (ISAR)**. This tool helps to identify seniors-at-risk who enter a hospital's emergency department. Seniors are assessed to determine if they can be returned to their home with a suitable level of home support to maintain their independence. Through the ISAR program, the Sudbury regional hospital has screened approximately 4,400 patients:

- 80% were high risks seniors.
- Of the 80% positive approximately 30% had some type of interventions.
- Of the 30% interventions:
  - 50-60% received teaching about community resources. Eg. Help line, meals of wheels.
  - 10-20% asked for assistance for direct referrals to services other than NE CCAC.
  - Another 10-20% agreed to a referral to NE CCAC to assess with services.