

Working Together to Bring Care Closer to Home

An update from Northeastern Ontario Health Care Partners for the People of Kashechewan

Newsletter – February 2016

Welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of a newsletter written collaboratively by health care partners who are focused on your local health care. The partners working with the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) are: Red Cross, Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA), and North East Specialized Geriatric Services (NESGS).

A lot of positive, patient-focused activities have been happening with health care in your community, and we want you to know more about all the good work underway. We also want you to learn more about what is in the works and how you can get involved.

Updates from the North East LHIN

The NE LHIN is a provincial health agency responsible for planning, integrating, coordinating and funding about 150 health service providers across Northeastern Ontario. Every year, the NE LHIN provides approximately \$27 million in funding to deliver health care services to people living in coastal communities, including hospital services, community support services, mental health and addictions, diabetes education, technology investments, and more. This includes \$450,000 to Red Cross for Personal Support Worker training, and \$272,000 to NESGS for specialized geriatric clinics. The NE LHIN continues to focus on building meaningful relationships with people in James Bay coastal communities to help improve the health and well-being of people living there.

NE LHIN Senior Advisor to the James Bay Coast

Carol Philbin-Jollette is the LHIN's Senior Advisor for the James Bay Coast. Carol has worked for the NE LHIN for many years and has a lot of experience in Aboriginal health care. She is dedicated to health care improvements along the coast, and work with all the care providers that the NE LHIN funds. She's also looking forward to creating partnerships between provincial

and federal health programs that improve care coordination. Carol's job is determining how to help health care providers coordinate care for you, so that it's easier for you to access when you need it.

You can reach Carol at carol.philbinjolette@lhins.on.ca or 1-866-906-5446 (toll-free).



Carol Philbin-Jollette

NE LHIN examples of progress in Kashechewan:

- The NE LHIN provides approximately \$194,100 to Kashechewan First Nation for community support services such as home maintenance, and home making.
- On November 18, 2015, Carol travelled to your community with Health Canada and a third party evaluator to engage with your community on the Weeneebayko Area Health Integration Framework Agreement (WAHIFA). We had the chance to meet with your Chief and Council members as well as community members to discuss how health care was delivered in your community in the last five years. The engagement provided insights on how WAHA can improve the health care system in the James Bay Coast. The NE LHIN also commissioned a review of WAHA's operations. The WAHIFA report and operational review report will be finalized in the next month. Carol will be working closely with Health Canada and WAHA to develop an action plan that will outline strategies to address the concerns expressed at the engagement session. We will be coming back to your community in the next few months to discuss the action plan.



North East Specialized Geriatric Services
Services gériatriques spécialisés du Nord-Est
North East Centre of Excellence for Seniors' Health
Centre d'excellence sur la santé des personnes âgées du Nord-Est



Updates from the Canadian Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross has programs in the communities in James and Hudson Bay, including Kashechewan, where we have staff. As we have started our programs in Coast communities, we have consulted with Chief and council, met with the elders and members of the health team, and sought their advice. Each community has its own vision for community supports and we are working to ensure that the investments of the NE LHIN are able to best support the needs. We listen to the communities and find ways to adapt our programs and our health funding around their needs.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather Cranney, heather.cranney@redcross.ca or 705-477-3561.

PSW program continues, and other news

The PSW program continues in Kashechewan and there are five students. They have balanced busy jobs in caring for the Elders in home care, with the demands of the training.

Red Cross invited the former health director, Garry Wesley, to the First Nations Health Managers Conference in Calgary and it was a great opportunity to learn from providers all across Canada.

The support of the Health Centre/ Nursing Station in Kashechewan has been tremendous and they are key to the success of the program.

Red Cross has been working with the LHIN-funded program providers in Kashechewan First Nation and it has been a great opportunity to see how we can share knowledge and it's nice to see how the NE LHIN staff and the Kashechewan team are working together to create success in the program.

Our work in the community allowed Red Cross staff to be present during the spring flood evacuation and we have shared our learnings with the NE LHIN as we saw how challenging it was to coordinate an evacuation for the frailest members of the community.

We learned so much from the members of Kashechewan First Nation as they shared their wisdom and experience in the effect of the powerful river on the community, and the impact the evacuating has.



Evadeny Nakogee of Kashechewan with Heather Cranney

Updates from North East Specialized Geriatric Services

North East Specialized Geriatric Services (NESGS) is a multidisciplinary team of health care providers who deliver specialized care for older adults with complex health needs, as well as expert resources for health care professionals and caregivers throughout Northeastern Ontario. Our vision is to improve the independence, quality of life and health outcomes for the frail elderly throughout Northeastern Ontario. We value the independence and dignity of our patients, the contribution of partners in care throughout Northeastern Ontario and the importance of shared knowledge and best practices in Geriatrics. We have been fortunate enough to hire a nurse through NESGS that is dedicated to make the connections in each of the communities along the James Bay Coast. Please welcome Crystal McComb RN Geriatric Nurse Clinician to the team. She is a former resident of Moosonee and has a Public Health background as well as a degree in Gerontology.

Geriatric Clinic Success

The first ever James Bay geriatric clinic was held in January of 2014 where a team of specialists travelled to Fort Albany and were able to assess 27 patients. Recently there was a follow-up clinic held in September 2015 where 20 patients received either a follow-up assessment or the full comprehensive geriatric assessment.

In February 2015, a second geriatric clinic was held at the hospital in Moose Factory where both Moose Factory and Moosonee patients were able to be assessed.

In conjunction with the Geriatrician consultations, the team included two Chiropodists and a Nurse Practitioner who specializes in Diabetes.

In total, 41 patients received Comprehensive Geriatric Assessments by three Geriatricians - Dr. Joanne Clarke, Dr. Janet McElhaney, Dr. Samir Sinha, and PGY2 (Post Graduate Year 2) Dr. Katie Krause; 45 patients were provided with Chiropody assessments by Mary-Anne Egan and Robert Pyott, and 22 patients were seen by the Nurse Practitioner Barb Kiely. That totaled 108 patients over the course of 2½ days!

NESGS is looking forward to working with leaders and health care providers in Kashechewan. Community visits will be scheduled for the summer of 2016, with plans to bring the Geriatricians to the community in the fall of 2016 for a Geriatric clinic.

For further information on the Geriatric Clinics, please contact Crystal McComb at 1-866-551-6501.



Crystal McComb RN, Geriatric Nurse Clinician, with her daughter Paisley standing along the Moose River in Moosonee in December 2015.

Updates from Weeneebayko Area Health Authority

The organization (WAHA) resulted from the October 1, 2010 integration of the Weeneebayko Health Ahtuskaywin/ Weeneebayko General Hospital in Moose Factory, the James Bay General Hospital in Moosonee, Fort Albany and Attawapiskat and the hospitals' associated agencies in the communities of Kashechewan and Peawanuck. As a hospital based in Ontario, the organization is subject to the provisions of the Public Hospitals Act.

WAHA Offers Dog Management Project to Kashechewan First Nation

An innovative program to help control dog overpopulation was offered by the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA) to Kashechewan First Nation. The two-year program provides free contraceptive (birth control) implants to female dogs, as well as vaccinations, deworming and microchips for all dogs in the community.



Dog anxiously awaits turn to participate in the clinic!

The project is a partnership between WAHA, Dogs with No Names (DWNN), the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Health Canada, and the Porcupine Public Health Unit.

PetSmart Charities of Canada provided a \$206,000 grant to WAHA, one of the non-profit's largest grants.

The vet team serviced 33 dogs in Kashechewan in July of 2015. Special thanks go to Kashechewan Chief and Council, Gary Wesley and Jim Powers for their support in hosting the dog clinics.

"Despite challenging weather conditions, the team and community showed great spirit and service was provided to as many dogs as possible, given the circumstances," commented Caroline Lidstone-Jones, WAHA's Chief Quality Officer. "The project was well received and will impact public safety, improving overall health outcomes. The vet team is looking forward to returning to Kashechewan in the summer of 2016."

For more information: Caroline Lidstone-Jones and Rob Gagnon, WAHA's Quality Department - (705) 658-4544 ext. 2332

WAHA Regional Discharge Planning Team to Visit Kashechewan

Since 2013/14, the WAHA Regional Discharge Planning Team has been working with the NE LHIN and North East Community Care Access Centre (NE CCAC) to educate community members about the following services:

- Primary care
- Discharge care plans for patients and their families
- Community-based home services

The Regional Discharge (RD) Planner collaborates, coordinates and arranges necessary services as close to home as possible. The Regional Patient Navigator (PN) assists anyone having difficulty



Pauline Koostachin (PN) and Julie Harris (RD), Discharge Planning Team

understanding the health care system and is able to provide Cree translation if required. Follow up health care is delivered by the team for as long as needed by the patient and family.

The team will be visiting the Health Canada Nursing Station to promote the program and provide education on services offered.

The team looks forward to the visit and helping patients, and their families receive care closer to home.

For more information: Crystal Culp, WAHA Director of Professional Practice - (705) 658-4544 ext. 2228