

Working Together to Bring Care Closer to Home

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

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-Jolette 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



Carol Philbin-Jolette

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).

NE LHIN examples of progress in Moose Factory:

- The NE LHIN provides Moose Cree First Nation with approximately \$365,000 for community support services such as home maintenance, home making, congregate dining, community nursing and social visits and also \$166,000 for assisted living services for Elders.
- In November 2014, Carol travelled to your community with the North East Specialized Geriatric Services (NESGS) and WAHA to engage with your community on rolling out specialized geriatric clinics in Moose Factory. We had the chance to meet with your Chief and Council members, health care providers and elders to discuss how to get your community ready for the geriatrician visits that occurred in February 2015 (refer to NESGS updates section in this newsletter).

Updates from the Canadian Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross has programs in the communities in James and Hudson Bay, including Moose Factory, 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.

Red Cross has the main office for the James Bay region in Moose Factory. This was our first office on traditional lands in Ontario. The office was created in partnership with Moose Cree First Nation and from there we provide Disaster Services, First Aid Training and Respect Ed, our anti violence and abuse education program.

We currently employ two members of Moose Cree First Nation (Minnie Jeffries and Tracey Fletcher), and Ben Williams, a longstanding Moose Factory resident.

We have responded to six house fires this year in Moosonee and Moose Factory and have trained 47 people in First Aid.

We are recruiting researchers in our Respect Ed Program. Red Cross has worked with WAHA and Moose Cree Health Services as Elder Services have been increasing in Moose Factory.

We have had the chance to work with NESGS as they are providing a very collaborative approach to Elder care and it is an honour to see the impact of this program on the Elders of James Bay.

In 2014, 10 PSWs graduated in Moose Factory through a LHIN-funded program done through Northern College and the Moose Cree Education Authority.

Three have been employed at the Moose Cree Health Services/Home Care, and three are employed at WAHA, one is pursuing her Development Service Worker Certificate, and some are pursuing higher education outside the community.

Moose Cree is currently interviewing for PSWs for the Assisted Living program and this is great news for our graduates.



In July 2014, the first locally trained personal support workers (PSWs) graduated in Moose Factory. They were, left to right: Kayla Cheechoo, Nellie Moses, Allyson Katapaytuk, Dana Sutherland, Lana Shanush, Krystal Wabano, Mary Rickard, Natalie Cheechoo, Lucy Beck. Missing from the photo is graduate Nellie Blackned. Working in partnership with the Red Cross, the NE LHIN supported work to develop and implement this culturally appropriate PSW training program. The success of this program included the support of Northern College, Moose Cree Education Authority, Mushkegowuk Education and Training, and Moose Cree First Nation.

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 with 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 Chiropractors and a Nurse Practitioner who specializes in Diabetes.

In total, 41 patients received Comprehensive Geriatric Assessments by three geriatricians - Dr. Jo-Anne Clarke, Dr. Janet McElhaney, Dr. Samir Sinha, and PGY2 (Post Graduate Year 2) Dr. Katie Krause; 45 patients were provided with Chiroprody 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!

We would also like to acknowledge the support staff in Moose Factory that includes Kathy Faries-Quachegan NP; Comfort Nwokedi RN; Jessica Carter, Occupational Therapist; Julie Harris, Patient Discharge Planner; and Pauline Koostachin, Patient Navigator; as well as Moosecree staff Linda Wesley-Rickard, Noel Laporte, Home Care Nurse; and Jackie Tobicoe, Home Care Nurse.

All of the patients who received a Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment during the clinic continue to receive ongoing case management every 4-6 weeks with access to Geriatrician consultation as needed.

A follow-up clinic was held in Moose Factory, January 25-28, 2016.

In December 2015, NESGS Staff Crystal McComb, Geriatric Nurse Clinician, and Breanne Chohan, Occupational Therapist, travelled to Moose Factory with Julie Harris, Patient Discharge Planner, and Pauline Koostachin, Patient Navigator, and provided a training session with WAHA and Moose Cree staff to support them for the clinic.

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



Left to right: Pauline Koostachin WAHA Patient Navigator, Crystal McComb Geriatric Nurse Clinician, Breanne Chohan NESGS Occupational Therapist, Julie Harris WAHA Patient Discharge Planner. Picture taken November 30, 2015.

Updates from Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA)

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 in Moose Factory

An innovative program to help control dog overpopulation is being offered by the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA) in Moose Factory. The two-year program provides free contraceptive implants to female dogs (birth control), as well as vaccinations, deworming and microchips for all dogs in the community. 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-profits largest grants.

The vet team provided service to 159 dogs in Moose Factory during their visit in June of 2015. Special thanks go to Moose



Dr. Catherine Filejski, Public Health Veterinarian with the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, cares for Jimmy Small's dog.

Cree First Nation and MoCreebec Chief and Councils, as well as Thomas Jolly, and Phoebe Sutherland for their support in hosting the dog clinics.

"Community members came out in droves and the one week clinic in Moose Factory was well

attended. 159 dogs received service, which is a significant number. This was achieved thanks to the hard work of the project team and community support," commented Caroline Lidstone-Jones, WAHA's Chief Quality Officer. "This project will enhance public safety and have a significant impact, improving the health of the community members. We expect positive outcomes in the summer of 2016 when the vet team returns to

Moose Factory. We look forward to working with the community again."

For more information: **Caroline Lidstone-Jones and Rob Gagnon - (705) 658-4544 ext. 2332.**

WAHA Regional Discharge Planning Team Updates for Moose Factory

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:



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

- 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 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 has been working with Moose Cree Health Services' Home and Community Care Program, NESGS and Weeneebayko General Hospital to conduct a follow-up geriatric clinic for Moose Factory elders in the New Year. The team looks forward to continuing its efforts in helping patients, and their families receive care closer to home.

For more information, please contact **Crystal Culp at (705) 658-4544 ext. 2228.**