

## MEDIA RELEASE

### North Algoma Health System Steering Committee recognized as Healthy Change Champions

December 4, 2017 - For the past several years, a diverse group of people from six communities have been working hard to make improvements to the health care system in North Algoma. For their work, the North Algoma Health System Steering Committee has been named a **Healthy Change Champion** by the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN).



*North Algoma Health System Steering Committee co-chairs Darlene Trovarello (left) and Mary Anne Pearson.*

“The North Algoma Steering Committee highlights the extraordinary work taking place across Northeastern Ontario to improve the patient experience,” said Kate Fyfe, Interim CEO of the NE LHIN.

“This group has pulled a wide range of partners together and focused on how people can more quickly and easily move through the health care system to get the care they need, as close to where they live as possible.”

The committee, which includes representatives from health service providers, municipalities, seniors’ group, women’s services, housing, Francophone and Indigenous Northerners, identified the health needs of people living in six communities: Dubreuilville, Hawk Junction, Michipicoten First Nation, Missanabie, Wawa, and White River.

Committee co-chairs Mary Anne Pearson and Darlene Trovarello say commitment and a spirit of cooperation are reasons why the committee has worked so well. “There is a community buy-in and everyone is committed to the process. I think that everybody at the table, especially the volunteers, deserve a big dose of recognition,” said Mary Anne.

The committee was formed in cooperation with Lady Dunn Health Centre in Wawa with funding provided by the NE LHIN. The group was tasked with implementing the [North East LHIN Rural Communities Framework for Achieving Improved Health System Coordination](#) over a two-year pilot project.

Following the framework, the committee identified needs in each community and resources that were already in place. They produced an [executive summary](#) with key findings from their work, as well as a [full report](#) and a [service inventory database](#).

“One of the things we found, is that often it isn’t so much a lack of services as it is lack of awareness of what is out there. In a lot of cases, things that were identified as being needed were already in place,” said Mary Anne.

As an example, Darlene cites the case of the North Algoma 211 service. “At the time, the program had been available for approximately two years but was not being utilized to its potential. Just getting the 211 information back out to the community really made a difference in people being able to access information on services.”

From the completed Current State Assessment, the North Algoma Health System Action Plan was created. The plan represents the needs of patients across the system and identifies what actions are being taken by each organization to address them.

With its mandate now fulfilled, the North Algoma Health System Steering Committee will sun set. However, a new North Algoma Health System Collaborative will be developed in its place to monitor and implement the work plan that has been developed.

For more information on the North East LHIN’s Healthy Change Champion Award, including the award’s criteria, past winners, and how to submit a nomination, please visit: <http://www.nelhin.on.ca/communityengagement/healthychangechampions.aspx>

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**For more information:** contact Michael Ward, North East LHIN Communications Officer, at 705-256-3002 or [michael.ward@lhins.on.ca](mailto:michael.ward@lhins.on.ca).

For a full list of committee members, please see the attached Backgrounder.

## **BACKGROUNDER**

### **North Algoma Health System Steering Committee (NAHSSC) Members**

The following individuals were members of the North Algoma Health System Steering Committee:

Angelo Bazzoni, Municipality of White River  
Christianne Monico, North East Community Care Access Centre (NE LHIN)  
Christine Creasey, Missanabie  
Darlene Trovarello, Canadian Red Cross  
Diane Lajambe, Canadian Red Cross  
Emma Blanchet, Algoma Public Health  
Jennifer McKenzie, Outreach Officer, NE LHIN  
Jocelyne LeBreton, White River Health Committee  
Kadean Ogilvie-Pinter, Lady Dunn Health Centre  
Karen Clifford, White River Health Committee  
Kelly Kabatay, Registered Nurse, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care (Thunder Bay)  
Lena Andre, Michipicoten First Nation Community Health Representative  
Lesley Gagnon, Missanabie Cree  
Lisa Krug, Algoma District School Board  
Lois Ross, Hawk Junction  
Mary Anne Pearson, CDC – Seniors Solutions Council  
Mary Lou Kobzick, Registered Nurse, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care (Thunder Bay)  
Nancy Andre, Michipicoten First Nation  
Paula Valois, CHADWIC Home  
Renée Mellish, Lady Dunn Health Centre – Diabetes Education Program  
Rochelle Parsons, North East Community Care Access Centre (NE LHIN)  
Roxanne Perkins, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care (Thunder Bay)  
Samantha Dunn, Registered Nurse, Algoma Public Health  
Shelly B. Casey, Township of Dubreuilville  
Silvana Dereski, Wawa Family Health Team  
Suzanne Racette, North East Community Care Access Centre (NE LHIN)  
Thelma J. Smitham  
Tina Forsyth, White River Health Committee  
Yvan Besner, Municipality of Wawa

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