

MEDIA RELEASE

North East LHIN Starts New Year with Education, Innovation and Re-Allocations for Local Health Care Programs

Friday, January 14, 2011 -- Earlier this week, the North East LHIN Board of Directors held their first Board meeting of 2011 in Sudbury. Amongst other agenda items, Board members:

- Received an update on ALC pressures and learned that programs that have been put in place over the past three years are beginning to help stabilize ALC rates which currently sit at 23% of acute care beds across the region. Strategies which are being applied in earnest such as Home First, Integrated Discharge Planning, Assisted Living, and Assess and Restore beds will continue. The NE LHIN has been, and will continue to, work closely with all its partners to monitor and manage ALC.
- Learned about the ongoing success of *Doorways* – a portal launched in December which allows NE LHIN mental health and addiction providers to access patient information from any location electronically.
- Toured the Kirkwood Site of the Northeast Mental Health Centre - the new home of 31 adult mental health beds.
- Approved the accountability agreement for the region's newest long-term care home - St. Gabriel's Villa in Chelmsford which will be home to 128 new residents by March 31, 2011.
- Approved the re-allocation of close to \$1.3 million dollars for Northeastern Ontario health care programs and services.



NE LHIN Board Directors, Danielle Bélanger-Corbin of the Cochrane/Timiskaming Planning Area and Jib Turner of the Manitoulin Planning Area joined fellow NE LHIN Board Directors for a tour of the Kirkwood Site in Sudbury. The site has a small exercise room and other patient amenities and will receive patients today.

The re-allocations are possible as a result of health service providers, funded by the NE LHIN, who for varying reasons, have indicated that they are not able to spend their full funding envelope by this year's fiscal year-end (March 31, 2011). The NE LHIN is able to redistribute the funds back into communities – based on need.

The re-allocated funds must be spent by March 31, 2011. For a full list of re-allocations to date, please see attached *Backgrounder*.

QUOTES

“If money can't be spent by one provider, it is in the best interest of the people of Northeastern Ontario to reallocate those dollars and ensure they stay in our region and go to support local programs and services. I applaud our health care providers for making their un-used funds known and helping Northerners benefit.”

-Louise Paquette, NE LHIN CEO

"The long-term care study for Englehart is important -- the provision of acute care and emergency services is imperative to the community we serve. Looking into the future at our aging population and exploring the needs in the area of health care for seniors makes good sense and it augments our existing role."

-Lois Kozak, CEO Englehart Hospital

QUICK FACTS

- The North East LHIN's annual budget of \$1.2 billion goes towards more than 200 health service providers across Northeastern Ontario who provide front-line care.
- Northeastern Ontario's 200 LHIN funded health service providers provide more than 600 programs and services to people living across the region.

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Backgrounder: North East LHIN Funding Re-allocations, January 12, 2011

Reducing Emergency Room Wait Times and Alternate Level of Care Pressures (ER/ALC)	Support to Timmins and District Hospital to allow those patients who can, to remain at home with proper care support while the regional Home First Strategy is implemented. <i>(In December 2010, close to \$1 million was allocated to develop a Home First Strategy for Northeastern Ontario. The NE LHIN is working with the NE CCAC to implement the strategy which will help potential ALC patients to return home more quickly and with proper care support after they are finished their acute care episode in hospital.)</i>	\$75,000
ER/ALC	Support for Englehart long-term care feasibility study. The study will help the community determine its future health care needs based on its changing demographics and aging population.	\$24,000
ER/ALC	Support for Elliot Lake hospice feasibility study. The study will help to determine the best health care options that are suited for Elliot Lake's population and high percentage of people age 65 plus.	\$25,000
ER/ALC	Support for two supportive housing units at Finlandia Village. The support meets the NE LHIN's goal of building up community capacity within the City of Greater Sudbury and ease ALC pressures being felt at Sudbury Regional Hospital and across the entire community.	\$25,000
ER/ALC	Support to reduce the Region's wait times for hips and knees by transferring 40 base volumes from Timmins and District Hospitals to other hospitals across the region.	\$269,200
Integration	One-time support costs for the integration of North Bay General Hospital and the Northeast Mental Health Centre, scheduled to take place on April 1, 2011. The integration is the first of its kind in Canada and will help to ensure a more seamless approach to patient care for people in North Bay and right across the Region.	\$100,000
Integration	Support to James Bay General Hospital to complete the dissolution of the hospital.	\$240,000
Chronic Disease	Support for a stroke rehabilitation pilot project between ICAN and Sudbury Regional Hospital. The project will allow stroke rehab services to be provided to patients outside of the hospital.	\$207,000
Mental Health	Support to the Alzheimer's Society of Sudbury to allow for increased services through the First Link Program and more enhanced services for people in need of dealing with Alzheimer's disease.	\$54,000
Technology	Support to further implement telemedicine services for hospitals across the region. The technology increases a hospital's ability to meet with other providers across Ontario and have easier access to specialists and best practices. With the help of telemedicine, people in Northeastern Ontario can receive care and health care support from anywhere in the province.	\$274,000
	TOTAL	\$1,293,700