

MEDIA RELEASE

NORTH EAST LHIN INVESTS IN HEALTH CARE FOR SENIORS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

For Immediate Release – Tuesday, May 19, 2009 – The North East Local Health Integration Network is receiving **\$11.4 million** to ensure more seniors can continue to live independently and to allow hospital patients to receive appropriate care in the right setting.

As part of the successful Aging at Home program, the NE LHIN is receiving **\$6.2 million** to help seniors receive needed health services in the comfort and dignity of their own homes and communities, instead of in a hospital. The Aging at Home program combines traditional health services – such as home care and supportive housing – with new, locally-driven, innovative approaches to caring for seniors.

The NE LHIN is also receiving:

- **\$3.5 million** for increased home care, personal support and homemaking services provided by Community Care Access Centres
- **\$1.5 million** to invest in local solutions that will address alternate level of care pressures
- **\$250,000** for nurse-led outreach teams to provide more care to patients in long-term care homes and help them avoid transfers to a hospital emergency room.

ALC patients are individuals in hospital beds who would be better cared for in alternate setting, such as long-term care, rehab, or home. Having more home care and community services enables ALC patients to leave hospital sooner, making more beds available to emergency room patients.

QUOTES

“The Aging at Home program is a very important program for our senior citizens who are able to enjoy their independence,” said Nipissing MPP Monique Smith. “The Aging at Home program gives our seniors options and helps them receive the level of care they require.”

“Our continued investments in meeting the needs of our aging population are helping our region’s seniors to get the care they need, in the location they want,” said Mathilde Gravelle Bazinet, Chair of the NE LHIN.

NE LHIN CEO Rémy Beaudoin confirmed that, "The North East LHIN is keen to continue to work with its provincial and community partners on the alternate level of care priority. Initiatives such as the development of supportive housing units and enhanced community services are pivotal to addressing the needs of seniors in our LHIN."

QUICK FACTS

- The NE LHIN is investing \$18.8 million over three years to fund Aging at Home programs and services across the region.
- It is projected that the NE LHIN will have a 24% increase in its seniors population (age 65+) between 2006 and 2016.
- The NE LHIN estimates that hospital patients who are awaiting access to appropriate care elsewhere occupy approximately 25% of hospital beds across the NE LHIN.

LEARN MORE

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Find out more: www.nelhin.on.ca

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