

MEDIA RELEASE

**North East LHIN Invests in Aging At Home Programs**  
*McGuinty Government Helping More Seniors Get Health Care At Home*

NEWS

August 31, 2010

The Government of Ontario is continuing to invest in the successful Aging at Home strategy. Today's announcement brings the total amount provided to the North East Local Health Integration Network to \$16.8 million to ensure more seniors get health care at home or in the community.

As part of the successful Aging at Home strategy, the North East LHIN is using the funding for local programs that provide health services to seniors in the comfort and dignity of their own home which allows seniors to lead healthy and independent lives while avoiding unnecessary visits to hospitals. As a result, hospitals can ultimately improve Emergency Department wait times.

Initiatives under the Aging at Home strategy include new community-based services such as:

- A **Home First Strategy** that supports patients returning home after an acute event is over so that seniors receive care in the community instead of in a hospital.
- **Enhanced assisted living services** such as transportation services for seniors and Meals on Wheels to allow seniors to remain in the comfort of their own homes or supportive housing units.
- **Assess and Restore Beds** – a made in Northeastern Ontario initiative for seniors as a partnership between the NE CCAC and selected area hospitals. It provides a place where people discharged from acute care treatment can stay for up to 90 days to receive care to help them recover strength and endurance so that they can then be discharged to their home or another appropriate setting in the community.

Investing in better local community supports will help improve Ontario's Alternate Level of Care (ALC) rate. ALC patients are individuals in hospital beds who would be better cared for in an alternate setting, such as long-term care, rehab, or home. By giving seniors the support they need to avoid hospitalization in the first place and helping those who do get admitted return home faster, access to health care will be improved for all Ontarians.

**QUOTES**

"It has been well proven and well researched that once in the hospital, older people often lose strength, flexibility and confidence with less and less chance of ever returning home with each passing day. The initiatives we are funding under the Aging at Home strategy will help provide support and services to the frail elderly."

- Louise Paquette, CEO - NE LHIN

"Seniors in the Greater Sudbury area are benefiting from access to important community-based services. This funding provides seniors with important assisted living supports and ensure they have the quality of life they deserve at home."

- Honourable Rick Bartolucci, MPP - Sudbury

“By making more services available to seniors at home and within our community, Ontario’s Aging At Home strategy is continuing to improve the quality of life for our seniors and reduce the time that our loved ones spend in the hospital,” said Monique Smith, MPP for Nipissing. “Seniors in the Nipissing area are receiving these important community-based services to ensure they can continue to enjoy living in their own home.”

- Honourable Monique Smith, MPP- Nipissing

“Today’s announcement is part of our government’s Aging at Home strategy, which will improve health care in Sault Ste. Marie by providing more funding for local programs that help residents live at home combined with support for additional long-term care beds in the community,” said David Oraziotti, MPP for Sault Ste. Marie. “This investment is another important step forward in the work being done to ensure residents get the dignity, respect and quality of life they deserve.”

- David Oraziotti, MPP – Sault Ste. Marie

### QUICK FACTS

1. Assisting seniors to live independently at home helps to shorten wait times at hospitals and improve patient flow in emergency rooms.
2. Ontario is investing \$330.6 million for Aging at Home programs this year.
3. By 2017, for the first time, seniors will account for a larger share of the population than children aged 0-14.

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## Backgrounder

### **North East LHIN Invests \$16.8 million in Northeastern Ontario Seniors Programs will help to reduce region's Emergency Room/Alternate Level of Care pressures**

The NE LHIN is investing \$16.8 million over three years in Aging at Home strategies across Northeastern Ontario. Year 3 of the program includes \$6.1 million to further support caring for the frail and elderly within Northeastern Ontario.

Aging at Home initiatives within the NE LHIN are helping to reduce community ALC pressures and unnecessary emergency room visits by seniors through an increase in innovative solutions such as more: home care support programs, assisted living services, community-based services such as help with transportation, personal hygiene and meal preparation, geriatric nurses in emergency rooms, and social support for seniors.

#### **Projects (Years 1 and 2)**

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>2010/2011 FUNDING AMOUNT</b>
Enhanced Transportation	Eastholme, District of Parry Sound (East) Home for the Aged	Transportation services to seniors with age-related disabilities.	\$10,569
Caregiver Support	Alzheimer Society of Sudbury	Providing counseling services to clients and families.	\$99,439
Safe Keeping Transportation and Meals on Wheels	Belvedere Heights Home for the Aged, Parry Sound	Transportation services, meals to seniors, safety checks, and education to community groups on how to recognize when seniors are at risk.	\$76,962
Supportive Housing and Transportation	Canadian Red Cross – Sudbury Branch	Home maintenance, snow removal, housekeeping	\$400,185
Supportive Housing and Transportation	Canadian Red Cross – Sudbury Branch	Providing assisted living and transportation services.	\$78,000
Supportive Housing	Canadian Red Cross – Timmins Branch	Providing 24/7 access to care for seniors in designated supportive housing units in Timmins.	\$244,783
Enhanced Home Maintenance Service	Canadian Red Cross – Sault Ste. Marie and District	House cleaning, yard maintenance and snow removal	\$215,469
Home Maintenance, Caregiver Support	Cassellholme, North Bay	Collaboration among community stakeholders to provide home maintenance, repair and caregiver support services	\$311,000

Day Centre	Temiskaming Community Health Centre	Day Centre for Francophone seniors in Larder Lake in collaboration with Timiskaming Home Support.	\$249,608
Transportation, adult day services and enhanced home supports	Dokis First Nation	Providing transportation services, adult day services and home maintenance services to seniors	\$23,601
Supportive Housing Units	Finlandia Village, Sudbury	Increase in assisted living services to existing clients.	\$100,000
Specialized Geriatric Services	James Bay General Hospital	Aging at Home facilitators for Attawapiskat, Fort Albany and Moosonee to provide environmental assessments, crisis intervention, supportive counseling.	\$255,000
Enhanced Case Management	Mamaweswen Northshore Tribal Council	Case Manager to coordinate services with hospital and CCAC discharge planners for 7 First Nation communities.	\$265,797
Nurse Practitioner	NE CCAC	Nurse Practitioner to support home visits to frail elderly.	\$223,600
Enhanced Personal Support Services	NE CCAC	Enhanced personal support services for seniors.	\$785,557
Identification of Seniors at Risk (ISAR)	North Bay General Hospital	Administration of ISAR tool to seniors presenting themselves in the ER.	\$100,000
Medical Transportation Services	N'Swakamok First Nation	Transportation program for seniors in Sault Ste Marie, Timmins, Cochrane, Parry Sound, Moosonee and Sudbury	\$245,000
Identification of Seniors at Risk (ISAR)	Sudbury Regional Hospital	Administration of ISAR tool to seniors presenting themselves in the ER.	\$75,000
Falls Prevention Program and Outreach	The Friends	Provision of education session to caregivers and service providers on falls prevention.	\$41,046
Outreach respite enhancement	The Friends	Personal support and independence training.	\$100,562
Community Support Services for the Frail Elderly in the Timiskaming Region	Timiskaming Home Support	Provision of community support services and case coordination services to the frail and elderly – assistance with personal support care, respite, homemaking, errands, shopping and	\$127,360

		medication reminders.	
Supportive Housing	Timiskaming Home Support	Additional community support services to clients living in Kirkland Lake.	\$162,500
Identification of Seniors at Risk (ISAR)	Timmins and District Hospital	Administration of ISAR tool to seniors presenting themselves in the ER.	\$100,000
Care Leader in Supportive Housing Units	Ukranian Seniors' Centre of Sudbury Inc.	Expansion of current assisted living services and hiring of a care leader.	\$79,135
Family Respite	VON – Greater Sudbury	Family respite program in combination with day program.	\$88,468
Elderly in Assisted Living Units – Sudbury	VON – Greater Sudbury	Provision of additional assisted living services to seniors.	\$62,000
Meals on Wheels	Wasauksing First Nation	Increase in number of meals delivered to elderly members of the Wasauksing First Nation.	\$10,261
Home First	NE CCAC	Implementation of Home First Strategy to support patients returning home after an acute event in order to receive post acute health care.	\$1,015,274
Step down unit and 24 hour attendant care in supportive housing	Physically Handicapped Adults' Rehabilitation Association – Nipissing – Parry Sound	Provision of transitional care for patients recovering from hospital and awaiting return home or placement in long-term care.	\$193,449
Aboriginal Long-term Care Program	Aboriginal Peoples' Alliance of Northern Ontario (APANO)	Community support services to help off-reserve seniors remain in their homes.	\$40,397
First Link	Alzheimer Society of Sault Ste. Marie	Referral program for early stages of dementia/Alzheimer clients and families to access education, counseling and support.	\$54,500

First Link	Alzheimer Society of Timmins	Referral program for early stages of dementia/Alzheimer – clients and families to access education, counseling and support.	\$36,000
Community Support Services - Home Help	Au Chateau Home for the Aged	Enhanced personal support services to residents in supportive housing units.	\$74,000
Transportation Services	Canadian Red Cross – North Bay Branch	Transportation Service for seniors in the Nipissing District.	\$100,000
Falls Prevention Program	Canadian Red Cross – Sudbury Branch	Improve service delivery to seniors and families by evaluating best practice models and developing a falls prevention program with network partners.	\$150,000
Supportive Housing	Canadian Red Cross – Timmins Branch	Provision of 24/7 access to care to seniors in designated assisted living units in Iroquois Falls.	\$125,229
Supportive Housing	Canadian Red Cross – Sault Ste. Marie and District	Assisted Living services for seniors	\$204,000
Segregated Supportive Housing	Casselholme	Enhanced personal home support services to residents currently living in supportive housing units to prevent long-term care home placement	\$206,000
Vieillir à domicile en santé et en toute sécurité – Kapuskasing et Hearst	Community Health Centre - Kapuskasing	Provision of social and safety visiting to individuals in Kapuskasing and Hearst – day program for Francophone seniors, transportation service	\$250,251
Nursing, Homemaking, Personal support, Attendant Care & respite	Constance Lake First Nation	Homemaking and personal support to frail seniors living in a senior's apartment building.	\$23,356
Nurse Practitioner	Extendicare/Tendercare	Nurse Practitioner outreach with goal of reducing the number of long-term care residents who visit the hospital ER.	\$475,000
Huron Lodge Supportive Housing	Huron Lodge	Provision of supportive housing services to frail seniors within in Elliot Lake.	\$389,000
Personal Support Worker	Magnetawan First Nation	Delivery of in-home PSW services.	\$17,600

United for Our Island's Anishinabek Elders	M'Chigeeng First Nation	Partnership among 4 First Nation agencies to coordinate and deliver health care support and professional services to elderly living both on and off reserve on Manitoulin Island	\$43,300
Volunteer Management Resources	Meals on Wheels Sudbury	Resource position to help community support agencies provide support to front line service agencies in the support, retention and recruitment of volunteers.	\$25,000
United for Our Island's Anishinabek Elders	Mnaamodzwin	Partnership among 4 First Nation agencies to coordinate and deliver health care support and professional services to elderly living both on and off reserve on Manitoulin Island.	\$28,350
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Geriatric Community Case Manager	NE CCAC	Geriatric community case manager for Sault Ste Marie, Parry Sound, Sudbury and Timiskaming.	\$732,234
Delivery of Influenza Vaccine to Homebound Seniors	NE CCAC	Influenza immunization for frail and elderly in Nipissing.	\$8,000
Sharing the Care	Nipissing First Nation Health Services	Caregiver training on falls prevention, medication management and respite and friendly visiting.	\$34,400
United for Our Island's Anishinabek Elders	Noojmowin Teg Health Centre	Partnership among 4 First Nation agencies to coordinate and deliver health care support and professional services to elderly living both on and off reserve on Manitoulin Island.	\$65,000
Falls Prevention	North Bay General Hospital	Falls prevention awareness targeting seniors/families/caregivers/physicians.	\$90,000
Nursing, Homemaking, Personal Support, Attendant Care	Notre Dame Hospital for Constance Lake First Nation	Overnight nursing services for seniors living in apartment building in Constance Lake.	\$19,909
Regional Geriatric Program	Pioneer Manor, Sudbury	Implementation of a specialized team that will assess and treat older adults with multiple health care needs	\$814,888

Geriatric Emergency Management (GEM)	Sault Area Hospital	GEM Nurse assigned to frail and elderly at risk seniors in ER. GEM will divert hospital admissions by linking individuals and families to physicians and community support services.	\$289,694
Parry Sound Supportive Housing	The Friends	Supportive Housing Services for medium to high needs seniors.	\$175,000
Timiskaming Home Support transit	Timiskaming Home Support	Transportation for seniors (60+) in Kirkland Lake, New Liskeard and surrounding areas.	\$107,000
United for Our Island's Anishinabek Elders	Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve	Partnership among 4 First Nation agencies to coordinate and deliver health care support and professional services to elderly living both on and off reserve on Manitoulin island	\$63,350

**Year 3 Additional planned funding for 2010 – 2011**

**\$6.1 million**

Funding in year three will be used to address the following five program areas:

1. Transitional Beds/New Long-term Care Beds, Redevelopment of long-term care beds
2. Transitional Bed Capacity (i.e. interim long-term care beds and assess and restore beds)
3. Outreach teams (i.e. Assisted Living Services)
4. Aboriginal/First Nations/Métis Community Enhancement/Discharge Planning Programs
5. North East Regional Geriatric Services

**What is an Alternate Level of Care (ALC) patient and how do ALC patients impact ER wait times?**

ALC patients are people in hospital beds who would be better cared for in an 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 ER patients who are waiting to be admitted to hospital.

**How does the Aging at Home strategy help reduce ER wait times?**

Our ER wait times strategy committed to reducing the time that patients wait from the moment they arrive at the ER to when they leave.

A small number of patients, approximately ten per cent, are admitted to the hospital for further tests and procedures. In order to reduce their time waiting for a bed, we need to decrease the number of patients that are waiting for discharge home with supports or space in a long term care home. Our Aging at Home and ALC strategies help to ensure that patients can transition out of the hospital safely to make room for ER patients waiting to be admitted.