

## Media Release

### **Investment Provides More Health Care in the Community Funding Boost Will Make Wait Times Shorter**

**Tuesday, December 21, 2010** - More Northeastern Ontario patients who no longer need hospital treatment will now have greater access to additional care in the community thanks to new provincial funding announced today by the North East LHIN.

The funding will help ease pressure on Emergency Rooms and is being provided under the province's Aging at Home Strategy for:

- A regional Home First Strategy in partnership with the North East Community Care Access Centre (NE CCAC)
- 24 Interim long-term care beds at Pioneer Manor in Sudbury
- 10 Additional long-term care beds at West Nipissing General Hospital in Sturgeon Falls

The Aging at Home Strategy allows people to stay in their homes while receiving supportive community care. The strategy also eases pressures on hospitals by finding care for patients who no longer need hospital services. Freeing up hospital beds helps patient flow throughout the hospital and leads to shorter wait times in the ER.

#### **QUOTES**

"People all across our region have been working hard to get the right balance of beds, programs and services in place to care for the frail elderly. This additional funding will go a long way to helping to secure programs and services as close to where as seniors live as possible."

-Louise Paquette, CEO, North East LHIN

"Investing in health care is a priority of the provincial government. These investments will help ensure people get the care they need in the proper setting while freeing up hospital resources and reducing wait times in our Emergency Department."

-MPP Rick Bartolucci, Sudbury

"The importance of the Home First strategy is in providing people with options – the option of time to make an informed decision about what is best for them, and the option of remaining in their home environment with the extra help they require."

- Richard Joly, CEO, North East CCAC

"We are grateful for funding that will permit us to open interim long-term care beds this spring at Pioneer Manor. Provision of quality care for those who can no longer live independently is a priority in our community. Today's announcement will help our frail elderly access the services they need to maintain a quality of life."

- Marianne Matichuk, Greater Sudbury Mayor

"This is wonderful news for our district and the NE LHIN. This funding will alleviate ER pressure and improve access for our aging population. Keeping our seniors close to home is what we want. We are hopeful to have these beds operational within the next few months."

-Cynthia Désormiers, CEO, West Nipissing General Hospital

## QUICK FACTS

- The North East LHIN works closely with communities all across Northeastern Ontario to develop community solutions to reducing ALC rates.
- 17% of the people in Northeastern Ontario are age 65 and over; by 2030, this number is expected to grow to 30%.
- In 2010/2011, the North East LHIN is providing \$103 million in base-funding to the North East Community Care Access Centre, a 29% increase since 2006/07.
- Across the province, 85 per cent of all Ontario patients who visit emergency rooms are being seen within the provincial targets and there has been an 8.7 per cent reduction in emergency room length of stay since April 2008.
- In October, 2010, 86% of all visits to NE LHIN emergency rooms were within target.

## LEARN MORE

For More information, contact: Lara Bradley, NE LHIN, 705-671-5471

Find out more about the NE LHIN's efforts to reduce ALC rates: [www.nelhin.on.ca](http://www.nelhin.on.ca). Find out more about [Home, Community and Residential Care Services for Ontario Seniors](#). Find out more about [Emergency Room Wait Times](#)

## Backgrounder Reducing Emergency Room Wait Times

Seven Local Health Integration Networks with a high number of patients in hospital beds who do not require hospital care are making investments in additional community care services, as well as in transitional care beds that allow individuals to improve their functional abilities and delay or avoid admission to Long-Term Care Homes.

These patients can receive the care they need at home or other appropriate settings through community health services. The funding will support initiatives such as Home First programs, transitional beds and supportive housing.

HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDER		PROGRAM	FUNDING 2010/11
<b>CENTRAL EAST LHIN</b>			
Central East Community Care Access Centre	Enhanced Home Care Supporting "Home First" Philosophy		\$2,209,500
<b>CHAMPLAIN LHIN</b>			
Cornwall Community Hospital	Transitional care beds		\$985,700
Montfort Hospital	Transitional care beds		\$800,900
The Ottawa Hospital	Transitional care beds		\$1,146,600
Queensway Carleton Hospital	Transitional care beds		\$917,300
<b>ERIE ST. CLAIR LHIN</b>			
Windsor-Essex Long-Term Care Homes	Interim Long-Term Care Bed Expansion		\$1,474,200
<b>HAMILTON NIAGARA HALDIMAND BRANT LHIN</b>			
Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant CCAC	Patient Flow Improvement Plan – Support Clients from Hospital to Home, and At Home (H2H&AH)		\$3,800,000
<b>NORTH EAST LHIN</b>			
North East CCAC	NE Regional Home First Strategy		\$922,300
Pioneer Manor (Sudbury)	24 Interim LTC Beds		\$518,900
West Nipissing General Hospital	10 Interim LTC beds		\$275,800
<b>NORTH SIMCOE MUSKOKA LHIN</b>			
North Simcoe Muskoka CCAC	Home First		\$1,400,000
<b>NORTH WEST LHIN</b>			
Kenora Home for the Aged	Supportive Housing in Kenora		\$120,000
Patricia Region Senior Services	Supportive Housing in Dryden		\$30,000
Riverside Health Care Facilities	Supportive Housing in Rainy River		\$60,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$14,661,200</b>