

Working Together to Bring Care Closer to Home

*An update from Northeastern Ontario Health Care Partners for the People of Fort Albany
Newsletter – February 2016*

Welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of a newsletter written collaboratively by health care partners who are focused on your local health care. The partners working with the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) are: Red Cross, Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA), and North East Specialized Geriatric Services (NESGS).

A lot of positive, patient-focused activities have been happening with health care in your community, and we want you to know more about all the good work underway. We also want you to learn more about what is in the works and how you can get involved.

Updates from the North East LHIN

The NE LHIN is a provincial health agency responsible for planning, integrating, coordinating and funding about 150 health service providers across Northeastern Ontario. Every year, the NE LHIN provides approximately \$27 million in funding to deliver health care services to people living in coastal communities, including hospital services, community support services, mental health and addictions, diabetes education, technology investments, and more. This includes \$450,000 to Red Cross for Personal Support Worker training, and \$272,000 to NESGS for specialized geriatric clinics. The NE LHIN continues to focus on building meaningful relationships with people in James Bay coastal communities to help improve the health and well-being of people living there.

NE LHIN Senior Advisor to the James Bay Coast

Carol Philbin-Jolette is the LHIN's Senior Advisor for the James Bay Coast. Carol has worked for the NE LHIN for many years and has a lot of experience in Aboriginal health care. She is dedicated to health care improvements along the coast, and work with all the care providers that the NE LHIN funds. She's also looking forward to creating partnerships between provincial and federal health programs that improve care coordination.

Carol's job is determining how to help health care providers coordinate care for you, so that it's easier for you to access when you need it.

You can reach Carol at carol.philbinjolette@lhins.on.ca or 1-866-906-5446 (toll-free).



Carol Philbin-Jolette

NE LHIN examples of progress in Fort Albany:

- The NE LHIN provides approximately \$396,000 to Fort Albany First Nation for community support services such as home maintenance, home making and personal support services.
- On November 16, 2015, Carol travelled to your community with Health Canada and a third party evaluator to engage with your community on the Weeneebayko Area Health Integration Framework Agreement (WAHIFA).

We had the chance to meet with your Chief and Council members as well as community members to discuss how health care was delivered in your community in the last five years. The engagement provided insights on how WAHA can improve the health care system in the James Bay Coast.

- The NE LHIN also commissioned a review of WAHA's operations. The WAHIFA report and operational review report will be finalized in the next month.

Carol will be working closely with Health Canada and WAHA to develop an action plan that will outline strategies to address the concerns expressed at the engagement session. We will be coming back to your community in the next few months to discuss the action plan.

Updates from the Canadian Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross has programs in the communities in James and Hudson Bay, including Fort Albany. As we have started our programs in Coast communities, we have consulted with Chief and council, met with the elders and members of the health team, and sought their advice. Each community has its own vision for community supports and we are working to ensure that the investments of the NE LHIN are able to best support the needs. We listen to the communities and find ways to adapt our programs and our health funding around their needs.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather Cranney, heather.cranney@redcross.ca or 705-477-3561.

Fort Albany had five PSW graduates in 2014. Training occurred in their home community and included additional training in subjects such as Foot Care, and Walking the Prevention Circle, violence and abuse prevention.

In Fort Albany, three PSWs have left the community. One is pursuing a career in Nursing and one is working at the Fort Albany Wing of WAHA.

In 2014, Red Cross and a WAHA Dietician provided training to support healthy food preparation.

Red Cross is working with Fort Albany to identify some needs for Elders services and training for the Health Providers in the winter of 2016.

The PSWs will be participating in specialized training through NESGS and their new educational program for Elders with dementia.

Staff from Fort Albany First Nation and Peetabeck Health Services were able to attend the CSS summit last year in Sudbury and meet with other providers.



Proud graduates from the PSW program - Fort Albany.

Updates from North East Specialized Geriatric Services

North East Specialized Geriatric Services (NESGS) is a multidisciplinary team of health care providers who deliver specialized care for older adults with complex health needs, as well as expert resources for health care professionals and caregivers throughout Northeastern Ontario. Our vision is to improve the independence, quality of life and health outcomes for the frail elderly throughout Northeastern Ontario. We value the independence and dignity of our patients, the contribution of partners in care throughout Northeastern Ontario and the importance of shared knowledge and best practices in Geriatrics. We have been fortunate enough to hire a nurse through NESGS who is dedicated to make the connections in each of the communities along the James Bay Coast. Please welcome Crystal McComb RN Geriatric Nurse Clinician to the team. She is a former resident of Moosonee and has a Public Health background as well as a degree in Gerontology.

Geriatric Clinic Success

Over the last two years, NESGS has been building bridges among the communities to provide the Elders with better access to specialized health care through consultations with Geriatricians. The first geriatric clinic was held in Fort Albany in January 2014 where patients were assessed and provided with recommendations to help enhance their health.

Between January 19 and 22, 2014, a team of visiting health care providers collaborated with local providers on patient-focused clinics to assess 27 patients. Some of the assessments were done in-home, with others held at the Fort Albany Hospital Wing (FAHW).

The team travelling north included Dr. Jo-Anne Clarke, clinical lead of NESGS; Dr. Janet McElhaney, medical lead for senior care at Health Sciences North (Sudbury); Dr. Samir Sinha, Ontario's seniors' strategy lead; two NESGS geriatric nurse clinicians (Melissa Egan, Melissa Pretty); Occupational Therapist (Kathryn Berardi); and Heather Cranney from the Red Cross.

Planning partners for the Fort Albany Geriatric Clinic included local care providers Weeneebayko Area Health Authority

(WAHA), Peetabeck Health Services (PHS), and FAHW; the clinic team includes administrative and nursing staff from the WAHA, FAHW, and PHS home and community care programs.

More recently, the geriatric team was able to travel back to Fort Albany and conduct a follow-up clinic on September 14-15, 2015. Twenty patients were assessed by three geriatricians - Dr. McElhaney, Dr. Sinha and Dr. Camilla Wong.

Assisting them was a Care of the Elderly Resident PGY3 (Post Graduate Year 3) Dr. Susan Lane, and PGY2 (Post Graduate Year 2) Dr. Katie Krause as well as Crystal McComb Geriatric Nurse Clinician. Support staff from Fort Albany included Luciana Mercier NP, Obinki Mathodi RN, Pamela Knapaysweet RPN, Stella Merenger Home Care Nurse as well as WAHA staff Julie Harris Patient Discharge Planner and Pauline Koostachin Patient Navigator.

All of the patients that have received Comprehensive Geriatric Assessments in 2014 and 2015 continue to receive case management through the support staff with access to Geriatrician consultation as needed.

For further information on the Geriatric Clinics, please contact Crystal McComb at 1-866-551-6501.



Left to right: Crystal McComb Geriatric Nurse Clinician, Dr. Samir Sinha, Julie Harris WAHA Patient Discharge Planner, Dr. Susan Lane, Dr. Katie Krause, Michael Corston (WAHA employee), Dr. Camilla Wong, Dr. Janet McElhaney, Pauline Koostachin WAHA Patient Navigator.

Updates from Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA)

The organization WAHA resulted from the October 1, 2010 integration of the Weeneebayko Health Ahtuskaywin/ Weeneebayko General Hospital in Moose Factory, the James Bay General Hospital in Moosonee, Fort Albany and Attawapiskat and the hospitals' associated agencies in the communities of Kashechewan and Peawanuck. As a hospital based in Ontario, the organization is subject to the provisions of the Public Hospitals Act.

WAHA Offers Dog Management Project to Fort Albany First Nation

An innovative program to help control dog overpopulation was offered by the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA) to Fort Albany First Nation. The two-year program provides free contraceptive implants to female dogs (birth control), as well as vaccinations, deworming and microchips for all dogs in the community.



Fort Albany dog gets ready to visit the vet team!

The project is a partnership between WAHA, Dogs with No Names (DWN), the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Health Canada, and the Porcupine Public Health Unit. PetSmart Charities of Canada provided a \$206,000 grant to WAHA, one of the non-profits largest grants.

The vet team serviced 50 dogs in Fort Albany during their visit in July of 2015. Special thanks go to Fort Albany Chief and Council, as well as Karen Metatawabin for their support in hosting the dog clinics.

"The project was successful and Fort Albany participation was amazing," commented Caroline Lidstone-Jones, WAHA's Chief Quality Officer. "This project will enhance public safety and have a significant impact, improving the health of the community members. We expect positive outcomes in the summer of 2016 when the vet team returns to Fort Albany. We look forward to working with community again."

For more information: Caroline Lidstone-Jones and Rob Gagnon - (705) 658-4544 ext. 2332

WAHA Regional Discharge Planning Team Visits Fort Albany Hospital

Since 2013/14, the WAHA Regional Discharge Planning Team has been working with the NE LHIN and North East Community Care Access Centre (NE CCAC) to educate community members about the following services:

- Primary care
- Discharge care plans for patients and their families
- Community-based home services



Pauline Koostachin (PN) and Julie Harris (RD), Discharge Planning Team

The Regional Discharge (RD) Planner collaborates, coordinates and arranges necessary services as close to home as possible. The Regional Patient Navigator (PN) assists anyone having difficulty understanding the health care system and is able to provide Cree translation if required. Follow up health care is delivered by the team for as long as needed by the patient and family.

The team visited the Fort Albany Hospital in collaboration with Peetabeck Health Services and the NESGS, to assist with reviewing patient care plans in preparation for the September 2015 geriatrics clinic. In addition, Cree translation supports were provided to the patients and family. The team looks forward to more visits and helping patients, and their families receive care closer to home.

For more information: Crystal Culp, (705) 658-4544 ext. 2228