

Working Together to Bring Care Closer to Home

An update from Northeastern Ontario Health Care Partners for the People of Moosonee

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



Carol Philbin-Jolette

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).

NE LHIN examples of progress in Moosonee:

- The NE LHIN provides approximately \$166,100 to Red Cross to provide community support services to Moosonee such as transportation and meals on wheels. Red Cross also receives \$80,000 to provide Assisted Living Services to elders in your community.
- On November 20, 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 Mayor 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 Moosonee, where we have staff. 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.



Heather Cranney

In 2012, Red Cross received funding from the North East Local Health Integration Network to start a one-of-its-kind Elders' Gathering Centre in Moosonee.

The Gathering Centre provides meals and socialization in a culturally safe environment.

In 2013, funding for Assisted Living was received and eight elders are currently being supported in their homes in Moosonee.

This support is possible with the teamwork of the CCAC's Lianne Linklater and Julie Harris, Pauline Koostachin of WAHA, as well as the Timmins Native Friendship Centre. We often do Elder activities and feasts together and share our resources and knowledge to support the community.

Red Cross can provide Meals on Wheels to the Elders and offers free transportation to shopping and appointments.

We are currently starting Red Cross-funded PSW training in Moosonee. If you are interested in this training program, please contact the office.

We are located at 21 First Avenue in Moosonee and can be reached at 705-336-2302.

All services are provided at no charge.



Moosonee Staff (left to right) - PSWs Delores Davey, Margaret Wesley, Theresa Martin, Acting Assistant Manager Tracey Fletcher, and Assisted Living Care Coordinator Minnie Jeffries.

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 that 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 with a Public Health background as well as a degree in Gerontology.

Geriatric Clinic Success

The first ever James Bay geriatric clinic was held in January of 2014 where a team of specialists travelled to Fort Albany and were able to assess 27 patients. Recently there was a follow-up clinic held in September 2015 where 20 patients received either a follow-up assessment or the full comprehensive geriatric assessment.

In February 2015, a second geriatric clinic was held at the hospital in Moose Factory where both Moosonee and Moose Factory patients were able to be assessed.

In conjunction with the Geriatrician consultations, the team included two Chiropodists and a Nurse Practitioner who specializes in Diabetes.

In total, 41 patients received Comprehensive Geriatric Assessments by three Geriatricians - Dr. Jo-Anne Clarke, Dr. Janet McElhaney, Dr. Samir Sinha, and PGY2 (Post Graduate Year 2) Dr. Katie Krause; 45 patients were provided with Chiropody assessments by Mary-Anne Egan and Robert Pyott, and 22 patients were seen by the Nurse Practitioner Barb Kiely. That totaled 108 patients over the course of 2½ days!

We would also like to acknowledge the support staff in Moosonee that includes Lianne Linklater, Home Care Nurse CCAC; Roxanne Henry, Moosonee Health Clinic; Julie Harris, WAHA Patient Discharge Planner; and Pauline Koostachin, Patient Navigator. All of the patients who received a Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment during the clinic continue to receive ongoing case management every 4-6 weeks with access to Geriatrician consultation as needed.

Plans are now underway to conduct a follow-up clinic for Moosonee in the fall of 2016.

**For more information about NESGS, please contact:
Crystal McComb RN Geriatric Nurse Clinician at 1-866-551-6501.**



Crystal McComb, Geriatric Nurse Clinician, with her daughter Paisley standing on the shore of Moosonee overlooking the Moose River December 5, 2015.

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 in Moosonee

An innovative program to help control dog overpopulation was offered by the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA) in the Town of Moosonee. The two-year program provides free contraceptive implants (birth control) to female dogs, as well as vaccinations, deworming and microchips for all dogs in the community. The project is a partnership between WAHA, Dogs with No Names (DWNN), 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 98 dogs during their visit to Moosonee in June of 2015. Special thanks go to Sara Feero, Stephen Crown, Diane Ryder and Northern College for their support in hosting the dog clinics. "The Town of Moosonee was the first community that received service and local participation was excellent. This was an excellent starting point for the project," commented Caroline Lidstone-Jones, WAHA's Chief Quality Officer. "On a go forward basis, 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 Moosonee. 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 Moosonee

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

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

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 worked collaboratively with the Moosonee Health Centre staff, the NESGS and the NE CCAC to assist with reviewing patient care plans to prepare for the September 2015 geriatrics clinic we hosted in Moose Factory, which welcomed Moosonee and Moose Factory residents. In addition, Cree translation supports will be provided to the patients and family when required. 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.

WAHA Hosted Open House at the Newly Renovated Moosonee Clinic

On July 15, 2015, WAHA proudly hosted an open house at the newly renovated Moosonee Clinic (Moosonee Health Centre), located at 5 Percy's Way in Moosonee. The Clinic was closed as a result of fire which occurred on December 4, 2012.

Medical treatment services were moved to the Moosonee Curling Rink shortly after the fire as

WAHA and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care worked collaboratively to renovate the Moosonee Clinic. The Moosonee Clinic (Moosonee Health Centre) phone line will remain as (705) 336-2341 for those requiring medical services.



Town of Moosonee CAO and WAHA Board Member Shannon MacGillivray, Town of Moosonee Mayor Wayne Taipale and WAHA President /CEO Bernie D. Schmidt cut the ribbon at the ceremony.