

MEDIA RELEASE

Dedicated Community Volunteer Recognized As A Healthy Change Champion

November 19, 2018 – A community volunteer from the Sault Ste. Marie area is being recognized by the North East Local Health Integration Network (North East LHIN) as a Healthy Change Champion.

Alan Elliott, a Laird Township resident and the co-chair of the North East LHIN's Patient and Family Advisory Committee (PFAC), is a long-standing volunteer dedicated to helping the less fortunate in Sault Ste. Marie and area. Over the past two years, Alan has helped collect close to 2,000 household items for donation to charitable groups such as the Salvation Army.

"Through his generosity and determination, Alan has shown how it is possible for one person to create a wave of positive change that benefits the health and wellness of others," said Jeremy Stevenson, CEO of the North East LHIN. "The North East LHIN is fortunate to have Alan as the co-chair of our first Patient and Family Advisory Committee, where his quiet leadership keeps us grounded in our patient-centered care efforts."

In 2017, to help celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary, Alan set a goal of donating 150 items — such as clothing, cooking utensils, and small household goods—to people in need. Alan quickly met his goal and decided to continue with his effort as part of *Change Day Ontario* 2017, doubling his initial total and collecting around 300 items.

In 2018, he has continued to collect and donate items and has remained committed to learning more about the needs of people in the area's communities, many of whom live with health and/or mental health issues. At last count, Alan's efforts have resulted in about 2,000 items being donated.



Above: Alan Elliot (right) is a resident of Laird Township near Sault Ste. Marie and co-chair of the North East LHIN's inaugural Patient and Family Advisory Committee. Also pictured are Dorene Hubley, Melody Slagel and Frances Schryer of the Salvation Army.

Alan has been able to locate items for donation from a variety of sources, including Share Sheds—drop off locations where people can bring items they no longer need or want for others to take, at no charge.

“I must give great credit to the Share Sheds in the rural area surrounding my home”, said Alan. “The locations in Laird, Desbarats, St. Joseph Island and Plummer Additional Township have excellent recycling for used goods that often help me get items for people in need. Their services and workers are fantastic and they are making this world a whole lot better with their efforts. I would also like to acknowledge the generous contributions from local businesses and citizens in Sault Ste. Marie and area as well.”

As evidenced by his remarkable donation campaign, Alan is a tireless advocate for vulnerable people and assists in whatever way he can.

“In my role as co-chair of the North East LHIN’s Patient and Family Advisory Committee I have had the opportunity to bring forth patient stories to the LHIN centered on physical and mental health issues across all age groups. I have seen evidence of my concerns being heard through goals and priorities that have been established.”

Background Information – Healthy Change Champion Award:

- **Who is eligible?** North East LHIN health service providers, employees and volunteers of providers, as well as health care leaders, community leaders, and other Northerners who are contributing to build a stronger health care system in the North East.
- **What kind of work does the North East LHIN Healthy Change Champion recognize?** Those who are transforming the health care system so that it is more patient/client-focused, integrated, and easier to access. These are people or organizations who are reaching out to others to improve the system. Their work may be small or large in scope, but it’s significant in making a difference in people’s lives.
- **Who can nominate?** Any Northerner can suggest a Healthy Change Champion. In one or two paragraphs explain why you believe the person or organization deserves this recognition. Send your nomination to engagingwithyou@lhins.on.ca or 555 Oak Street East, Third Floor, North Bay, ON, P1B 8E3.
- **How are they chosen?** Nominees are reviewed by the senior team from the North East LHIN. Consideration is also given to individuals and organizations advancing the care for certain population groups within the LHIN including seniors, Indigenous/First Nations/Métis, and Francophones.

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For more information: Please contact Mike Ward, Communications Lead, North East LHIN, at michael.ward@lhins.on.ca or 705-256-3002.