

MEDIA RELEASE

North East LHIN Announces New Support to Benefit Frail Seniors in Temiskaming District

January 7, 2015 – The North East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is responding to the needs of seniors in the Temiskaming District with two new investments to strengthen home and community care services.

At an announcement held today in Temiskaming Shores, Danielle Bélanger-Corbin, North East LHIN Board Chair, described how more seniors will receive geriatric assessments and care plans, as well as assisted living so that they can continue to live independently at home. The investments include:

- Geriatric Assessor for Temiskaming District
- Assisted Living for eight high risk seniors.

“We often hear from our older adults and their families that our seniors wish to live in their Northern communities and homes, with some coordinated support, for as long as possible,” said Bélanger-Corbin. “Today’s community allocations from the NE LHIN will help people in Temiskaming District receive the attention and care they need from community support agencies working collaboratively.”

The geriatric assessor for Temiskaming District will be part of the Specialized Geriatric Services (NE SGS) team and will work closely with Temiskaming providers to ensure coordinated care for frail seniors in the district.

“Comprehensive geriatric assessment and intervention is essential to keep frail, high risk seniors in their home and reduce or reverse the functional decline that can result in premature hospitalization or long term care placement,” said geriatrician Dr. Jo-Anne Clarke with NE SGS. “This approach is complex and requires a team approach. NE SGS is very excited to work with Dr. Davies and the new clinician toward our common goals.”

New funding from the North East LHIN will go to Timiskaming Home Support to provide assisted living for eight seniors in their own home or a seniors’ building.



Care providers joined NE LHIN Board Chair, Danielle Bélanger-Corbin to hear ways that community and home care is being strengthened and seniors better supported to live independently at home in the District of Temiskaming. Two new programs were announced that respond to the needs of area seniors. Left to Right – Back row: Dr. Don Davies, Care of the Elderly Physician, Great Northern Family Health Team; Valerie Scarfone, Executive Director, North East Specialized Geriatric Services; Danielle Bélanger-Corbin, NE LHIN Board Chair, Carol Philbin Jolette, NE LHIN Senior Officer, and front left, Betty Stone, Timiskaming Home Support Board Chair.

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“The Assisted Living program provides the daily needs of so many seniors in our area enabling them to age in their home of choice,” explained CEO RoseMarie Raymond-Simmons. “Timiskaming Home Support is dedicated and entrusted in meeting those crucial needs. Now with the endorsement and support of the North East LHIN, we are able to extend this important service to the community of Temagami. We are especially excited in working closely with other stakeholders in the community to make this initiative a great success.”

Both investments – the new geriatric assessor and the assisted living – respond to needs in the community identified by the Temiskaming Collaborative, made up of primary, home and community care providers working collaboratively in the area to create patient-centred care for those with complex medical needs.

FACTS:

- Through the work of the **Temiskaming Collaborative**, a **Temiskaming Health Link** has been at work in the area since late 2012. It is a collaborative of health system partners working together to address the needs of the most frequent users of the health system. The geriatric assessments support work is aligned with the Health Links guiding principles of patient-centred and coordinated care for people with complex needs. People with dementia have been identified as high users within the Temiskaming healthcare system. Therefore, dementia has been selected as one of three conditions (along with Congestive Heart Failure and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) that are key priorities for the Temiskaming Health Link.
- More than 1,500 seniors in the North East are currently receiving **Assisted Living** services – providing both scheduled and unscheduled around-the-clock help. Assisting seniors to live independently at home responds to the care requests of seniors and helps improve hospital patient flow while shortening wait times in emergency rooms. To find out about assisted living services in your community, contact: 310-CCAC.
- The **North East LHIN** is responsible for planning, integrating, coordinating and providing funding to 150 health service providers in Northeastern Ontario. It oversees \$1.4-billion in local health care investments on behalf of the 565,000 residents of Northeastern Ontario.
- Over the next 20 years, the population of **seniors** aged 65 and over in the North East will increase from today’s 19% to more than 30%.

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MORE INFORMATION:

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