

## **Media Advisory**

### **North East LHIN Board Supports a PET Scanner Suite for Sudbury *Approves pre-capital submission at June 9<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting***

June 9, 2016 -- The North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) Board of Directors voted in favour of supporting a pre-capital submission for a Positron Emission Tomography Suite (PET-CT) in Sudbury.

In December of 2015, Health Sciences North (HSN) learned the government will provide the hospital with up to \$1.6 million in operating funding for a permanent PET scanner once the community and the hospital have raised the necessary capital.

Then in June, the hospital sent a pre-capital submission to the LHIN for a suite to house the scanner. As it does not have an existing space (3,800 square feet), HSN is now requesting funding of approximately \$4 million from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's Capital Investment Branch to build a space to house the unit.

The North East Board voted in favour of supporting this request at its June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, which means the application can now proceed to the Ministry.

"We support this investment that will bring care and treatment opportunities closer to home for Northerners," said Chair Danielle Belanger-Corbin. "This submission is also in line with our strategic priorities of improving access, care coordination and sustainability."

#### **Backgrounder**

- There are 13 PET-CT in Ontario: eight funded scanners are located in academic health centre; three units are dedicated to research, and there are two others.
- PET-CT scans create two to three dimensional images that reflect biochemical processes and blood flow combined with the anatomical detail from a CT.
- These scanners are recognized and funded in Ontario to provide diagnosis and treatment management for oncology, lung, head, neck, lymphoma, colon and cardiac disease.
- It will also create opportunities for HSN to take part in clinical trials.
- An analysis of the Northern Health Travel Grant Program suggests an average annual savings of \$228,000 with the location of a PET scanner in Sudbury.

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