

MEDIA RELEASE

North East LHIN Continues to Support Sudbury Seniors

North East LHIN funds Enhanced Care Beds at Finlandia Village and provides more Assisted Living services to help seniors remain in their homes

October 18, 2016 -- Rachelle Poirier knows how hard it is to communicate with and care for a loved one with dementia, while Paul* can tell you how a little help can go a long way towards staying in his home.

Today, the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) announced new investments to help seniors like Rachelle's mother and Paul get the care they need in the setting they want.

"Today is about working together to build a people-centred way of caring for our seniors and their families," said Louise Paquette, CEO of the NE LHIN. "We are listening and responding to what seniors and their caregivers are telling us. These investments will not only help people like Rachelle and Paul, they will also help seniors return home safely after a hospital stay."



From left to right: Rachelle Poirier; Tracy Browne, Director of Regional Operations – North, Canadian Red Cross; and Louise Paquette, CEO, North East LHIN.

The NE LHIN is supporting Sudbury seniors by bringing assisted living services to underserved areas and by investing in a new Enhanced Care Seniors Support Program in Finlandia's long-term care home which will provide a new way of caring for people whose dementias cause responsive behaviours.

Investments include:

- Creation of a new **Enhanced Care Seniors Support Program** at Finlandia Village's Hoivakoti Long-Term Care Home an investment of \$480,000 will provide enhanced staffing

levels and specialized programs modelling different approaches and techniques for communicating and caring for older residents struggling with, and demonstrating, responsive behaviours as a result of dementia.

- **New assisted living for seniors.** March of Dimes will receive \$400,000 to provide assisted living services for seniors in the Valley East area and the Canadian Red Cross will receive \$400,000 to support seniors living in communities along Highway 144, from Azilda to Levack. In addition, another \$200,000 will be used to support seniors with assisted living services upon discharge from hospital. This funding will go to various providers across the city, including ICAN, March of Dimes, Canadian Red Cross and Ukrainian Seniors.

*Client wished only to share his first name.

These investments will help people like Paul*, who was admitted to hospital after having yet another fall. With unstable blood sugars and uncontrolled blood pressure, he was also found to be suffering from severe depression. Alone, without family in Sudbury, Paul had become socially isolated and not thriving at home. Since becoming an assisted living client of the Canadian Red Cross, Paul now receives help with personal care and meal preparation, as well as some light housekeeping. He has been connected with other community support services such as transportation and his assisted living worker makes sure that he can get to his medical appointments and even helped him call his sister on the East Coast, who he hadn't spoken to for six years.

"I came out of the hospital, and you sent workers to help me. They make me happy," he said. "(Assisted Living Services) have completely changed my life, and I am happy now."

Rachelle spoke at the launch about how the North East Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO) supported her mom as well as herself as caregiver.

"Having a parent diagnosed with dementia quickly puts you on a journey of change. In my case, I was met with many challenges along the way when trying to access services in the community. BSO quickly became my lifeline for understanding behaviours, navigating the system and accessing support in the community. My BSO Worker was always a phone call away and helped me keep it together and ensure that my mom received the best care. BSO to me is a catalyst of care; providing partners with the knowledge to empower families to provide the best care for their loved ones, regardless of their obstacles."

Other Quotes:

"We applaud the NE LHIN for their continued investment in Assisted Living; a service that provides high-risk seniors, residing in their own home, with a high level of personal support services that are available seven days per week, 365 days per year. We see first-hand how these services have allowed seniors, not only to survive, but thrive at home. With these additional funds, more seniors will have the opportunity to live safely at home for as long as possible."

Tracy Browne, Director of Regional Operations – North, Canadian Red Cross.

"The investment of funding by the NE LHIN for Assisted Living Services will support an increased number of seniors within expanded areas of the city. This service expansion will continue to prove beneficial in providing the necessary support to keep seniors in their home longer and enhance the role Home and Community Care sector has within the continuum of care. March of Dimes is pleased to be part of a group of service providers dedicated to supporting seniors to remain in their home with enhanced services made possible through Assisted Living High Risk Services funding."

Deanna Chisholm-Tullio, Regional Independent Living Manager, March of Dimes Canada

"Caring for the elderly with dementia presents many unique challenges for health care providers. Dementia is set to overtake cancer as the leading disease in Canada over the next 10 years. This enhanced funding from the North East LHIN will provide additional front line staffing with dementia training to allow the elderly with dementia to be cared for in our Hoivakoti long term care home. Keeping our elderly residents safe and secure in their home will be achieved under this program."

David J. Munch, CEO, Finlandia Village

"Finlandia Nursing Home is both proud and excited to have the opportunity to support seniors struggling with responsive behaviours as a result of dementia, not only within our nursing home, but also, within our community."

Angela Harvey, Administrator

"In its relative infancy, the Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO) initiative has made tremendous gains in enhancing behavioural health care services for older adults and their care partners. In the North East, we are very proud of our BSO integrated model of care, which cultivates tremendous collaboration across teams, agencies and sectors to meet the unique needs of Northern Ontarians. This enhanced funding investment is a positive change momentum that speaks to our ongoing collective commitment to person and family-centred care."

Monica Bretzlaff, Manager BSO

Quick Facts:

- Currently, the North East LHIN is providing funding to support **243 high risk seniors** who receive assisted living services in the Greater Sudbury area and 1,100 people across the North East region.
- **Assisted Living** services help address the needs of high risk seniors who are able to reside at home and require the availability of personal support and homemaking services on a 24 hour-basis. Services are available in a client's home or within buildings in the community which have designated assisted living units. Services can be both scheduled and unscheduled and are available 24/7.
- Since the launch of **North East Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO)** in 2011, the NE LHIN has enhanced the province's Northeastern Ontario investment of \$3.4 million with an additional \$1.4 million for a total BSO investment of \$4.8 million to care for Northerners.
- North East BSO provides a comprehensive system of support to enhance care for older adults with responsive behaviours that may be associated with dementia, mental health, substance use and/or other neurological conditions, as well as their caregivers.

- Through investments, the NE LHIN has added more than 70 front-line BSO workers across the region to community agencies, long-term care homes, and hospitals, as well as provided specialized training for 7,500 others already working in the field.
- This investment delivers patient care in response to the distinct local needs in the NE LHIN. The NE LHIN harnesses local expertise to plan, coordinate and finance health care through provincial funding and in partnership with local health service providers. This investment supports the commitments made in [Patients First: A Roadmap to Strengthen Home and Community Care](#), Ontario's plan to improve and expand home and community care, and is part of Ontario's increased funding for that sector of more than \$750 million over three years.

For more information or to arrange interviews, contact Communications Officer Lara Bradley at Lara.Bradley@lhins.on.ca or 705-207-1259.