

MEDIA RELEASE

North East LHIN Provides More Support for People in Need of Mental Health Services in North Bay and Area

November 22, 2017 -- Linda McCarthy knows how hard it can be to find and keep housing if you are someone living with a mental illness. She watched her brother struggle with the challenge. He acquired a brain injury at the age of four. In adulthood, he developed an addiction to alcohol, encountered poor housing, and became homeless. Today, Linda shared his story at a North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) event in North Bay.

The NE LHIN announced an investment of \$539,000 to help people like Linda's brother have better access to mental health and addiction services as well as housing supports.

"Through LHIN-led engagements, we know that people living in this area have difficulty accessing mental health and addiction services," said Kate Fyfe, Interim CEO, North East LHIN. North Bay and area is home to exceptional community leaders who are doing great work to better meet the needs of people. We are extremely pleased to support local agencies – and the individuals they serve in their valuable work."

Investments include:

Nipissing Mental Health Housing and Support Services – \$380,000 to provide housing for eight individuals with complex medical and psychiatric conditions. These are people who may, otherwise, find themselves without permanent housing.

Community Counselling Centre of Nipissing – \$89,000 to support an Addictions-Concurrent Disorders Counsellor so that the centre can increase service hours at its walk-in clinic – and help to reduce wait times for services.

People for Equal Partnership in Mental Health – \$70,000 to support a residential peer support worker who will help to enhance the housing stability of the 20 tenants residing at 416 Lakeshore.

"In one year, my brother had several admissions to hospital. His hospital stay totalled 250 days," said McCarthy. "Nipissing Mental Health Housing and Support Services helped connect us with services in hospital and community – and a year and a half ago, my brother entered their complex care home. He is alive today, only because of the excellent care provided through this home, the many partners in this community, and the support of the North East LHIN."

Improving access to housing and mental health and addictions services in Nipissing is among the priorities identified by the North East LHIN's regional Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council. The group, formed a year ago, is working to address mental health and addictions needs by helping to plan and implement recommendations.

FACTS:

- Mental illness and addictions affects one in five Ontarians
- The North East LHIN funds seven mental health and addictions services in Nipissing, providing more than \$19 million in funding every year.
- Nipissing Mental Health Housing and Support Services is a local mental health agency that specializes in support services for people with a serious mental illness.
- Community Counselling Centre of Nipissing offers counselling services and community programs to individuals, couples, and families.
- People for Equal Partnership in Mental Health offers peer support, self-help groups, and social, educational and recreational activities to people with mental health and addiction issues.
- This investment delivers patient care in response to the distinct local needs in the North East LHIN. The NE LHIN harnesses its local expertise and engagement with patients and local partners to plan, coordinate and deliver health care.
- Ontario is increasing access to care, reducing wait times and improving the patient experience through its [Patients First Action Plan for Health Care](#) and [OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare Program](#) - protecting health care today and into the future.

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