

MEDIA RELEASE

North East LHIN Supports Expanded Access to Behavioural Supports Ontario Services

April 06, 2018 – Yvonne Thomas’s brother Moe Gregoire was diagnosed with dementia in 2015. As part of Moe’s care team, she understands the difficulties that come when a loved one is facing a neurological condition. She also knows that help is available—from the North East Behavioural Supports Ontario (NE BSO), and that it makes a meaningful and positive difference.

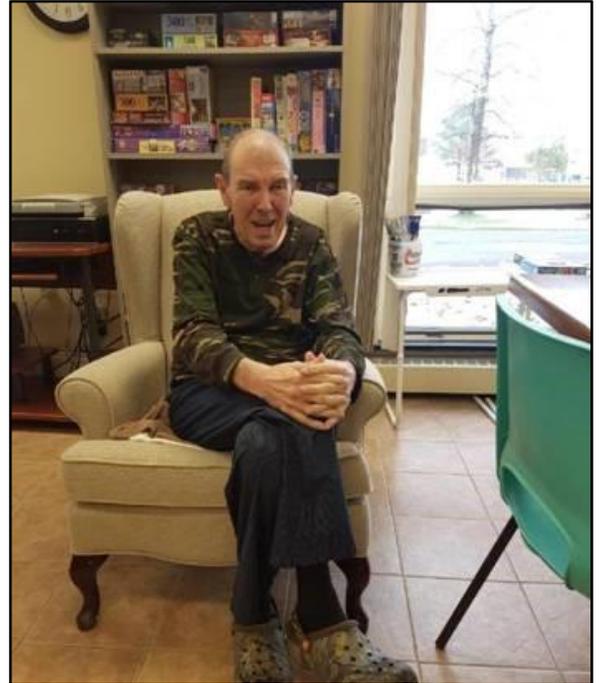
“As Moe’s sister, I continue to help Moe and his wife Alice cope with the changes in their lives since my brother was diagnosed with severe depression and dementia in February of 2015. The BSO team has been our lifeline throughout this unique journey and our family is forever grateful,” said Yvonne.

Rejeanne, who asked that only her first name be used, is the caregiver to a spouse living with dementia. She too can vouch for the positive impact made by BSO.

“NE BSO has helped my husband accept his condition and given us a lot of hope and tools. We don’t feel alone anymore in this journey. They have enhanced his quality of life tremendously which was nonexistent for many years,” said Rejeanne.

This year through the Ontario Dementia Strategy, the North East LHIN is providing \$630,000 to increase the availability and accessibility of BSO services in long-term care homes, in addition to a further investment of \$60,000 to North East BSO to enhance their regional central patient intake system.

“This added funding will not only mean more assistance for people struggling with issues like dementia, but it will also mean added support for families and healthcare providers,” said Sudbury MPP Glenn Thibeault. “As our community ages we need to remain focused on the concerns of the elderly and of those who provide care, as we continue to ensure everyone in Ontario gets the attention and support they deserve. The Ontario Government continues to invest in more front-line healthcare providers and resources to support people living with dementia and their caregivers, as we work to address the needs of seniors now and in the future.”



Above: Moe Gregoire and his care team have benefited from help provided by Behavioural Supports Ontario.

“The number of older adults living in the North East LHIN is projected to grow to be 27 per cent of the total population within the next decade. With that growth, we need to ensure we have the right resources in place to support and care for these Northerners.” said Jeremy Stevenson, CEO of the NE LHIN. “Our investments in North East BSO are helping patients and families today and into the future.”

North East BSO provides a full system of support to enhance care for older adults with or at risk of responsive behaviours that may be associated with dementia, complex mental health, substance use and other neurological conditions. North East BSO also provides support to family caregivers and healthcare providers who are helping individuals living with such conditions.

The expansion of the North East BSO Initiative will support positions at an additional 13 long-term care homes across the NE LHIN, with an emphasis on homes in smaller communities. Some positions will also be shared between long-term care homes. With this new support, there will now be 87 front-line BSO staff working across the region in long term care homes, hospitals, and at community agencies.

“As a progressive catalyst for change, we are encouraged by this continued support in recognition of BSO’s positive impact in long term care and across sectors,” said Monica Bretzlaff, Manager, North East BSO & BSO Provincial Coordinating Office, North Bay Regional Health Centre. “The focus on rural spread in the North East will bring essential resources to these areas in need. In addition, enhanced scopes of practice such as recreational therapy will fuel new perspectives and innovations to enrich our current care models.”

Backgrounder:

2017/18 BSO Long Term Care Home Funding Recipients – Newly Funded Positions:

- Algoma Manor Nursing Home (**Thessalon**): Recreational Therapist.
- Golden Manor (**Timmins**): Social Worker.
- North Centennial Manor (**Kapuskasing**): Recreational Therapist.
- Foyers Des Pionniers (**Hearst**): Recreational Therapist.
- South Centennial Manor (**Iroquois Falls**): Recreational Therapist.
- Teck Pioneer Residence (**Kirkland Lake**): Mobile Registered Practical Nurse. This position will be shared equally and in partnership with Extendicare Kirkland Lake.
- Temiskaming Lodge (**Haileybury**): Mobile RPN. This position will be shared equally and in partnership with Extendicare Tri-Town.
- West Nipissing General Hospital (**West Nipissing**): RPN.
- Belvedere Heights Home for the Aged (**Parry Sound**): Recreational Therapist.
- St. Joseph’s Villa (**Sudbury**): Mobile RPN, to be shared with Villa St. Gabriel Villa. (**Chelmsford**).
- Elizabeth Centre (**Val Caron**): Recreational Therapist.
- Espanola Nursing Home (**Espanola**): RN/RPN and funding to support training.
- Eastholme Home for the Aged (**Powassan**): Recreational Therapist.

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