

MEDIA RELEASE

North East LHIN Supports People in Parry Sound District Receiving Greater Access to Primary Care

April 30, 2018 -- Sigi retired and moved to Northeastern Ontario in 2015, and finding a family doctor in Seguin Township proved more difficult than he anticipated; there was, at best, a one year wait as local physicians were not taking new patients.

Sigi was told about six nursing stations in the Parry Sound area that offered people without a health care provider access to a range of health care professionals, such as nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists,

social workers, and dietitians. He made an appointment at one of the stations and he and his wife were taken on as patients. Shortly after, Sigi was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer.

“My initial intake was one of the most thorough exams I have ever had. In short, I can say that I credit the Nurse Practitioner there with saving my life,” said Sigi. “Had we waited a year or probably more for a family doctor, I would not be here.”

Earlier today, the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) announced an investment of close to \$3.5 million to support the West Parry Sound Health Centre (WPSHC) in the creation of a Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic – by combining and enhancing the hospital’s six existing rural nursing stations, and for support for the Wasauksing First Nation in the creation of a primary care clinic.

Investments include:

West Parry Sound Health Centre – \$2.6 million to support additional health care professionals at the nursing stations. New on-site service visits will include mental health, social work, physiotherapy, and more nurse practitioner time.

Wasauksing First Nation – \$900,000 to support the creation of an Indigenous Interprofessional primary care team in Wasauksing First Nation/Parry Sound that provides services that promote physical and mental health for community members, with a focus on traditional healing.



“The North East LHIN listens and responds to the health care experience of fellow Northerners. By supporting greater access to primary care in these communities, we are helping to ensure the health care needs of Northerners are met closer to home.” – Jeremy Stevenson, CEO, North East LHIN.

“Our nursing stations provide exceptional primary care and improve access for the patients and families who we serve in rural communities throughout West Parry Sound. We are truly excited about the difference that this significant investment in additional care providers will mean in terms of enhanced care, closer to home.” – Donald Sanderson, CEO, WPSHC.

FACTS:

- The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and North East LHIN are investing \$2,562,300 in the West Parry Sound Health Centre Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic to expand access to interprofessional primary care.
- The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and North East LHIN are investing \$900,000 in the Wasauksing First Nation to expand access to interprofessional primary care.
- The North East LHIN is committed to helping ensure Indigenous people living in Northeastern Ontario enjoy a quality of life and health status that is equal to all Ontarians. In the fall of 2016, the LHIN published the Northeastern Ontario Aboriginal Health Strategy and Reconciliation Action Plan, which guides its work to expand culturally appropriate health care services to build a stronger system of care for Indigenous Northerners.
- In the 2017 Budget, the province made a commitment of \$15.5 million for 2017-18 and an additional 27.8 million in 2018-19 to create and expand interprofessional primary care teams (Family Health Teams, Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics, Community Health Centres) focusing on areas with the greatest needs.
- Ontario has also committed \$329.2 million over five years to recruit and retain interprofessional primary care professionals.
- There are currently 294 interprofessional care teams across Ontario delivering care to more than four million people.
- The province is providing \$23 million per year over three years to improve care coordination for complex patients through the [Health Links initiative](#).

LEARN MORE

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- [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#)

Contact:

Sacha Novack, Communications Lead, North East LHIN, 705-522-3460 ext. 5201,
sacha.novack@lhins.on.ca