

MEDIA RELEASE

North East LHIN Supports People in Sudbury District and Neighbouring Communities Receiving Increased Access to Primary Care

May 2, 2018 -- When Paola Taylor and her husband recently moved back to Sudbury, they couldn't find a doctor – but they found the care they needed at the Sudbury District Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic. “We have never received so much attention to our health,” said Paola. “The Nurses at the clinic were very supportive in helping us with our medical issues.”

Earlier today, the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) announced funding to help to ensure quality primary health care is more accessible to people in the Sudbury District living with medical conditions, mental illness, addictions, and poverty issues closer to home.

An investment of \$1.9 million is supporting a Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic (NPLC) in Sudbury and an Aboriginal Health Access Centre (AHAC) in Espanola and Massey.

- **The Sudbury District NPLC** is receiving **\$1.1 million** to expand and offer a comprehensive clinic in the downtown core – with outreach to all areas of Greater Sudbury. The NPLC will focus on Sudbury's marginalized and homeless population. The clinic will connect complex patients without a family doctor with a range of health care professionals, such as nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, and dieticians – to address healthcare needs, including mental health and chronic disease management.
- **Noojmowin-Teg Aboriginal Health Access Centre** is receiving **\$810,000** to expand Aboriginal Health Access Centre programs and services to Indigenous people in Espanola and Massey. The new services will include a full-time nurse practitioner who will provide clinical services within the Espanola Family Health Team. The Centre Place will house a full-time Indigenous mental health and addiction counsellor and cultural support worker and will include a culturally specific space for counselling and traditional



Jeremy Stevenson, CEO of the North East LHIN

services, as well as an activity space for workshops and cultural safety training. In the fall of 2016, the LHIN published the **North East LHIN Aboriginal Health Care Reconciliation Action Plan**, which includes 24 calls to action and guides the LHIN's work to build a stronger system of care for Indigenous Northerners.

Quotes:

“Our government is committed to ensuring everyone in Ontario has access to high-quality primary care, closer to home. The support of interprofessional primary care teams in the community is an important and significant step toward achieving this goal.”

– Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

“Today’s announcement is about investing in people. All Northerners deserve equitable access to health care services as close to where they live as possible. The North East LHIN will continue to work in partnership to ensure a strong system of care here in Northeastern Ontario.”

– Jeremy Stevenson, CEO, North East LHIN

“The City is committed to improving the lives of our residents, and the expansion of interprofessional primary care teams will not only enhance current services provided but will enable partners to better meet and serve the needs of our community’s most vulnerable population. We will continue to work closely with our many community health partners to eliminate health disparities in our community and achieve health equity.”

– Brian Bigger, Greater Sudbury Mayor

“The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Sudbury/Manitoulin is excited about this funding announcement and our new partnership with the Sudbury Nurse Practitioner Clinic. This Health Equity funding will enhance the primary care services to individuals in our community who need these health care services.” – Marion Quigley, CEO, CMHA Sudbury/Manitoulin

“The Sudbury District Nurse Practitioner Clinics is very pleased to be opening an office in the downtown core to provide primary care to people without access to ongoing health care services. NPLCs not only help to improve the lives of patients but also the health of the community as a whole, so we are very proud to be able to offer care to a population in need.”

– Jennifer Clement, Nurse Practitioner and Clinic Director, Sudbury District NPLC

“Noojmowin-Teg Health Centre is pleased to receive funding for an expansion of primary care services to Anishinabe people living within Espanola and area. As a priority, the organization will seek to engage the community in greater awareness of the new services, develop pathways for referrals and linked services with Espanola partners, and ensure that the services respond to the needs of clients.”

– Pamela Williamson, Executive Director, Noojmowin-Teg Aboriginal Health Access Centre

FACTS:

- The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is investing \$1,060,953 in the Sudbury District Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic to expand access to interprofessional primary care.
- The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is investing \$810,000 in an Aboriginal Health Access Centre to expand services to Espanola and Massey.
- Aboriginal Health Access Centres are Indigenous community-led, primary health care organizations. They provide a combination of traditional healing, primary care, cultural

programs, health promotion programs, community development initiatives, and social support services to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities.

- The investments show commitment to ensuring health equity for all people in Ontario, by focusing on patients who have barriers to accessing comprehensive primary care services.
- 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

- [Health Links](#)
- [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#)
- [North East LHIN Aboriginal Health Care Reconciliation Action Plan](#)

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