

North East LHIN-Supported Rural Hospice Model Wins Innovation Award

November 18, 2016 – The community of Kirkland Lake’s innovative approach to providing patients and their families with access to coordinated hospice care close to home – a goal of the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) – just received provincial recognition.

The Kirkland Rural Hospice Co-location Model aligns with the North East LHIN’s vision of ensuring hospice care is available within one hour of all Northerners, to respond to our aging population’s need for access to quality end-of-life care.

Up until 2013 in the Kirkland Lake area, people diagnosed with cancer or other life-limiting illnesses had no local hospice beds at the end of their life’s journey. In the fall of that year, the area’s Volunteer Hospice Visiting program and community collaborators partnered with the Kirkland and District Hospital to pioneer a one-bed hospice suite, located in the hospital. A year later, this model was replicated at Englehart and District Hospital, also in Temiskaming District.

“Northerners want and need quality end-of-life care close to home and family” said Lianne Valiquette, Palliative Lead, North East LHIN. “This model puts the patient and their family at the centre of care, and in better control of their lives during those precious final days and hours.”

In a home-like environment, patients are provided palliative and end-of-life care services by an interprofessional team with palliative care expertise, 24 hours a day. A traditional residential hospice ranges between six to 10 beds and can create a challenge in a rural area for those charged with finding financial resources for operations.

“The one-bed suite offers new opportunities to deliver hospice care, without sacrificing quality of care,” said Valiquette of the North East LHIN. “The suite has been successfully evaluated against Hospice Palliative Care Ontario’s Standards for Community Residential Hospices, the accreditation standards for the residential hospice sector.”



Management teams at Kirkland and District Hospital and Englehart and District Hospital have agreed to help the NE LHIN implement a regional demonstration project involving this model, and pilots are now in place in 17 rural communities across the North East LHIN.

Honourable Mention in the Innovation category at the 2016 Quality and Innovation Awards for their submission “*1-bed Hospice Suite – Rural Co-Location Model at Kirkland and District Hospital*” was presented to (from left to right): **Monika Schallenberger**, Chief Nursing Officer, Kirkland and District Hospital; **Lianne Valiquette**, Palliative Lead, North East LHIN; **Betty Smallwood**, Palliative Care Program Coordinator, Kirkland and District Hospital; and **Mark Hartman**, Vice President Regional Cancer and Clinical Support Programs, Health Sciences North/Northeast Cancer Centre and Regional Vice President, Cancer Care Ontario. The award was sponsored by the Cancer Quality Council of Ontario (CQCO), Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) and the Ontario Division of the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS), and presented in Toronto on November 16.

Facts:

- The NE LHIN provides approximately \$4 million each year for hospice palliative care across Northeastern Ontario, which includes nursing funding through the North East Community Care Access Centre, support to two hospices – in Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie, hospice volunteer visiting delivered by eight agencies, and six education programs.
- Last month, the NE LHIN announced that Timmins and District Hospital will receive \$420,000 for four hospice beds so that residents can live their remaining days in dignity and comfort, surrounded by the people who love them.
- Seniors in North East Ontario will climb to approximately 27% of the population (151,000 people) in the next 10 years and need a broader range of palliative and end-of-life care options.
- See the NE LHIN’s website [here](#) for information on Hospice Palliative Care across the NE LHIN.

-30-

For more information, please contact Kathleen Bain, Communications Officer with the NE LHIN, at Kathleen.bain@lhins.on.ca or 705-840-2340.