



Glenn Thibeault, MPP

Sudbury

Support for Caregivers Making a Difference for Families in North East Region

Ontario Funding Respite Services to Help Families Care for Loved Ones

NEWS

April 4th, 2017

This year, Ontario increased supports for people caring for their loved ones at home in North East Region, by increasing access to respite services for 980 local families.

Today — on National Family Caregiver Day — Sudbury's Member of Provincial Parliament Glenn Thibeault is thanking people in the North East for the work they do every day to care for their loved ones. A caregiver is someone who takes on the unpaid role of helping a family member or loved one with their physical or cognitive condition, injury or chronic life-limiting illness.

For Sudbury, investments from the province have allowed the North East Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) to expand its services to provide respite, so that families caring for loved ones at home can take a much needed break from their caregiving responsibilities. Altogether 379 families in the Sudbury/Manitoulin/Parry Sound sub-region have accessed respite services this year.

Eliane Tremblay, 80, lives with her daughter, Carole Arsenault, who works full-time, and Carole's husband Bert. Ever since she suffered a stroke in January, Eliane has been a bit unsteady on her feet and uses a walker to get around the house. Fortunately, Carole has two sisters who are equally committed to keeping their mother safe at home for as long as they can.

"I guess you could call it a real sister act," says Carole. "My sisters, Linda and Lise, are with my mom during the day, so I can concentrate on work, but at night, the caregiving falls to me. Thanks to the respite hours I receive from the CCAC, I'm still able to leave the house a few times during the week to buy groceries, run errands, and take some time for myself. With my sisters' help, my husband's support and now respite care, we're making it work."

Ontario's support has allowed for approximately 600,000 additional hours of respite services for caregivers across the province this year.

Supporting patients and their caregivers is part of the government's plan to build a better Ontario through its [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#). This plan is providing patients with faster access to the right care, better home and community care, the information they need to stay healthy and a health care system that's sustainable for generations to come.

QUOTES

"Improving home and community care is one of our government's most important health care priorities. Informal caregivers, like family members and friends, contribute to more than seventy per cent of their loved ones' caregiving needs, and we know how stressful that can be. We want to ensure caregivers are supported and able to take rests from providing care to their loved ones."

— Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

"Many Northern Ontarians rely on unpaid caregivers to help them in their daily lives. Whether a family member, friend or volunteer, these individuals provide compassion and needed support in addition to working other jobs, which can add-stress and fatigue. To support caregivers, our government is-providing extra respite in Northeastern Ontario-to lighten the load for those carrying these extra responsibilities."

— Sudbury MPP Glenn Thibeault

"Family caregivers play a vital role in the lives of Northerners of all ages. In our engagement efforts, many caregivers have told us how they too need help, including breaks to recharge, so that they can continue to provide care to their loved ones. As a LHIN we will continue our efforts to find ways to better support the valuable role of family caregivers."

— Louise Paquette, North East LHIN CEO

QUICK FACTS

- Informal caregivers represent approximately one in five Ontarians.
- The province has invested \$1.1 million better support family caregivers in the North East LHIN.
- Ontario invested \$100 million last year to enhance support for home care clients with high needs and their caregivers.
- The investment provided \$80 million to support enhanced care for clients who are most in need and \$20 million for caregiver respite, allowing caregivers who need it the most to take rests from providing care to their loved ones.
- Through consultations with people in Ontario and members of Ontario's Patient and Caregiver Advisory Table, the province recently established a [Statement of Home and Community Care Values](#). This Statement reflects the needs and priorities of home and community care clients and their caregivers and ensures their values are reflected in the care they receive.
- These initiatives support the commitments made in [Patients First: A Roadmap to Strengthen Home and Community Care](#).

LEARN MORE

- [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#)
- [Patients First: A Roadmap to Strengthen Home and Community Care](#)
- [Bringing Care Home](#)
- [Ontario's Dementia Strategy](#)

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