

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Putting Clients First North East LHIN Salutes Personal Support Worker Shalene Bonhomme**

**December 6, 2013** - Shalene Bonhomme, a personal support worker of 25 years with ICAN in Sudbury, has been named a **Healthy Change Champion** by the North East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

“Shalene is one of the many outstanding front line workers in the North East who are helping seniors live independently in their own homes,” said North East LHIN CEO Louise Paquette. “She has embraced this career as a calling and by so doing has changed the lives of her clients for the better.”



ICAN Independence Network and Centre, a non-profit organization, provides a variety of services, resources and support systems for adults with disabilities and high-risk seniors in Greater Sudbury. Bonhomme has worked in ICAN's Outreach Attendant Care and Supportive Housing programs for persons with physical disabilities and then recently made the switch to supporting seniors in their homes

“When ICAN expanded its services to include high risk seniors, Shalene embraced this change,” said Marie Leon, Executive Director of ICAN, who nominated Bonhomme for the award. “Many of our clients have requested services provided by Shalene, as she is always thoughtful, kind and compassionate. She absolutely loves working with our senior population.”

Bonhomme has both training as a Developmental Service Worker and Personal Support Worker, in addition to a Bachelor of Arts.

“I like working with people, making them happy, doing something for them,” Bonhomme said. “I have never come across any senior yet who says they want to be in a long term care home. They all love staying in their own homes. By us going in and helping them, we're allowing them to stay in their homes. We're making them feel comfortable and happy.”

More than 1,100 seniors received assisted living services including personal care, home making, help with the medications, and security checks in the North East region by community service providers like ICAN. Assisted living is different than homecare, as it involves around-the-clock scheduled and unscheduled support for high risk seniors living either in their own home or in a residence run by a provider. Personal Support Workers are key caregivers for these clients.

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“She is a shining example of what Community Support Services are all about,” said Leon. “Her highly professional conduct and commitment to ICAN is outstanding. She ensures our clients are always treated with dignity and respect.”

**Background Information:**

- **Who is Eligible?** North East LHIN health service providers (HSPs), employees and volunteers of providers, as well as, health care leaders, community leaders, and other Northerners who are contributing to building a stronger health care system in the North East.
- **What kind of work does the NE LHIN Healthy Change Champion recognize?** Those who are transforming the health care system so that it becomes more patient/client-focused, integrated, and easier to access. These are people or organizations who are reaching out to others in the course of their work to improve the system. Their work may be small or large in scope, but it’s significant in that it is making a difference in people’s lives.
- **Who can nominate?** Any Northerner can suggest a Healthy Change Champion. We just ask that you tell us in one or two paragraphs why you believe the person or organization deserves this recognition. Send your nomination to [engagingwithyou@lhins.on.ca](mailto:engagingwithyou@lhins.on.ca) or 555 Oak Street East, Third Floor, North Bay, ON, P1B 8E3.
- **How are they picked?** Nominees are reviewed by our senior team. Consideration is also given to individuals and organizations who are advancing the care for special population groups within the North East LHIN including seniors, Aboriginal/First Nations/Métis, and Francophones.

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For more information: Contact Lara Bradley, communication officer with the North East LHIN at 705-674-1492, 705-207-3254, or [lara.bradley@lhins.on.ca](mailto:lara.bradley@lhins.on.ca)