

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Friday, March 2, 2012

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **North East LHIN Holds Community Engagements on How to Realign Health Care Services in the Temiskaming District**

The North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) will hold engagement sessions next Tuesday and Wednesday in three Temiskaming District communities.

These sessions follow engagements held last June in which more than 100 people participated and offered their input into what needed to be done to increase access to care for people living in the Temiskaming District.

Next week's engagements will focus on how to realign health care services to ensure people are receiving the health care services they need in the right place, at the right time and for the right cost. A facilitator, along with NE LHIN staff, will offer a presentation on local health care facts and figures, followed by engagement questions.

All members of the community are encouraged and welcomed to attend and bring their thoughts on how to develop a more patient-focused, seamless and effective local health care system. The schedule includes:

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|-----------------------|---|
| <b>NEW LISKEARD:</b>  | <b>Tuesday, March 6</b><br><b>7 - 9 p.m., Dymond Hall, 181 Drive-In Theatre Road</b>  |
| <b>KIRKLAND LAKE:</b> | <b>Wednesday, March 7</b><br><b>12 - 1:30 p.m., Kirkland Lake Royal Canadian Legion – Larry Brown Room (A light lunch will be provided)</b> |
| <b>ENGLEHART:</b>     | <b>Wednesday, March 7</b><br><b>6:30 - 8 p.m., Englehart &amp; Area Community Arena Complex Hall</b>  |

#### **Quick Facts:**

- Each year, the NE LHIN flows \$74 million to 16 health service providers to provide front-line care to 32,634 people living in the Temiskaming District.
- According to the 2011 Census, the population in the Temiskaming District has decreased by 13.7% since 1996.
- The Local Health System Integration Act gives LHINs the mandate to plan, fund and integrate local health care services.

- Bill 46, the Excellent Care for All Act recognizes that a high quality health care system is one that is accessible, appropriate, effective, efficient, equitable, integrated, patient centred, population health focused and safe.
- Ontario's Action Plan released January 30 speaks to how to make healthy change happen in Ontario.
- On January 25, 2011, the NE LHIN Board of Directors passed a motion directing LHIN staff to, "further engage with stakeholders in the Temiskaming District, and prepare a proposed health services realignment plan for discussion at the June 2012 Board meeting."

For more information or to arrange an interview with the NE LHIN, please contact:  
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### ***About the North East Local Health Integration Network (North East LHIN)***

*As a health-focused organization, the North East LHIN is helping both fellow Northerners and health care providers improve local access to health care. The North East LHIN makes decisions about regional health care integration, funding and planning. It oversees \$1.4-billion in local health care investments on behalf of the 555,000 residents of Northeastern Ontario. To find out more, visit [nelhin.on.ca](http://nelhin.on.ca) or call 1-866-906-5446.*