

February 2013

## North East LHIN Communiqué

### *Healthy mothers and babies ensure a healthy future for Northeastern Ontario*

A Northeastern Ontario nurse is one of the newest health care professionals making an impact on improving newborn health care across our province.

Karen MacDonald, Registered Nurse for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) pediatrics at the Sault Area Hospital has been appointed to the Provincial Maternal Newborn Advisory Committee. She is one of the 20 members on this provincial committee and represents the North East LHIN region.

The committee was established by the Provincial Council for Maternal Child Health (PCMCH) in late 2008. The PCMCH supports and influences the evolving needs of the maternal-child health care system in Ontario and examines specific areas and issues affecting access and quality.

The NE LHIN supported Karen's appointment to the provincial committee. "Building a healthy future for children begins by ensuring a good start to life with proper access to health care services for mothers and their newborn babies," says Louise Paquette, CEO of the North East LHIN.

The committee has made strides in improving the health of mothers and their newborns such as establishing standardized levels of care, developing and implementing clinical guidelines and recommendations to support health care providers in addressing the needs of opioid dependent women and their babies, and develop infection prevention and control policies within and between maternal and newborn units.

In the past, the NE LHIN has worked in partnership with the PCMCH to develop and implement standardized levels of care definitions for maternal and neonatal units. These standards are improving and supporting patient flow across the system with a clear and consistent understanding of services provided by any given location.

For more information, contact:

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Provincial Council for Maternal Child Health [website](#)



One-day-old Caleb benefits from more standardized and coordinated levels of quality newborn care in Northeastern Ontario.



“*The work of the Advisory Committee will provide mothers and their babies with better access to high quality health services through more effective and efficient coordination of maternal and newborn services across the region.*”

--Karen MacDonald, Registered Nurse for NICU pediatrics at the Sault Area Hospital.