

Spring - A Time for Renewal

Dear Northerners,

May 2017

Spring is a time of renewal and transformation. And what better time to embark on changes that will bring our health care system more tightly together, better coordinated so as to improve the patient experience?

Since the introduction of the *Patients First Act* last year, we have been preparing to take on our expanded role as a Local Health Integration Network (LHIN). We have been meeting with our colleagues at the North East CCAC, planning how our two organizations will fit together.



And now, finally, we have a date for the transition! Our LHIN recently received the official transfer order from Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Dr. Eric Hoskins, confirming that on **Wednesday, May 31st** we will become one organization – all staff and services of the North East CCAC transferred to the North East LHIN.

While this is a huge milestone for us, involving much work ‘behind the scenes,’ for the 16,000+ patients currently on care with the North East CCAC, there will be no disruption in their health services provided at home, at school, or in the community. It will be a seamless transition, much like moving from one season to another. While the weather will change, the same people that provide you with care today will continue to be involved in your life. Patients, caregivers and families will remain our top priority!

If you want to take a look at our new organizational structure, it’s available on [our website](#). We are proud of the fact that we have been able, mainly through attrition, to reduce administration costs by 8%. The introduction of a renewed LHIN is just one part of the transformation of the health care system, as outlined in the *Patients First* legislation. Soon you will see changes that will increase access to care, reduce wait times, and improve the patient experience. Once fully realized, these changes will make local health care more responsive to local needs. Our vision for Northern Ontario, will be one where:

- Patients will benefit from improved access to primary care
- Primary care providers, inter-professional health care teams, hospitals, public health units and home and community care providers will be better able to communicate and share information, to ensure a smoother patient experience and transitions. Our goal is that patients will only have to tell their story once.
- Administration of the health care system will be streamlined and reduced, with savings put back into patient care.
- The voices of patients and families in their own health care planning will be strengthened through Patient and Family Advisory Councils.
- There will be an increased focus on cultural sensitivity and the delivery of health care services to Indigenous peoples and French speaking people in Ontario.

So spring into action with us! The North East LHIN is your LHIN and we need your voice to help us move forward. Let's build a better system together!

Louise