

North East LHIN Patient and Family Advisory Committee Members

The following are members of the North East LHIN Patient and Family Advisory Committee (PFAC):

PFAC Co-Chairs



Alan Elliott, Echo Bay – Alan is a retired educator and a past board member and chair of Algoma Family Services, as well as a former municipal representative on the Hornepayne Hospital board. Alan’s health care interests include wait times and quality care and he is always looking to learn and share information.



Mary Murphy Foran, Elliot Lake – Mary brings considerable past experience from working in the community care field. She is a member of the Palliative Care and Age Friendly committees in Elliot Lake, as well as a past chair of Elliot Lake Economic Development. She has a passion for innovation and believes that there is much work to be done in the area of elder care.

Algoma Sub-Region



Rina Clark, Sault Ste. Marie – Rina is a caregiver and health care advocate. She has volunteered with the Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma Alzheimer’s Society and shared her experiences as a public speaker. Rina is concerned about the challenges in navigating the system and believes it is important to hear from the people who are “on the ground.”



Brenda Lediett, Blind River – Brenda is a former medical office administrator as well as a cancer survivor. She also volunteers with the Hospice and Palliative Care unit with the North Shore Health Network. Brenda’s top priorities are mental health, home care for seniors living at home, and access to specialists.

Cochrane Sub-Region



Sylvie Fontaine, Hearst – A resident of Hearst, Sylvie has had varied experiences with the health care system and is actively involved in community. Sylvie is interested in ensuring access to services and looking forward to discussing her experiences.



Debbie Malo, Cochrane – Debbie is a retired head nurse with 38 years of work experience in hospital settings. She has experience both delivering and receiving care and has had past involvement on several PFACs. Debbie's focus is on mental health, Aboriginal partnerships, and the health and well-being of seniors.



Jennifer Vachon, Timmins – Jennifer has past work experience with the Red Cross and volunteer experience with Meals on Wheels. She is a past board member with South Cochrane Addictions Services. Jennifer is a believer in collaborative outpatient care and quality services for people living in Northeastern Ontario.

Nipissing-Temiskaming Sub-Region



Rebecca Geauvreau, North Bay – Rebecca works as a Species-at-Risk Biologist. An unexpected accident brought her young family into regular contact with the health care system and she has suggestions arising from the experience. Rebecca volunteers with her children's school and is a member of the Nipissing Naturalist Club.



Ronald Gervais, Sturgeon Falls – Ronald is a very active member of the community in Sturgeon Falls. He is a past president of the Francophone Historical Society of Nipissing District, a director on the board of the Sturgeon Falls Caisse Populaire, and a long-time volunteer with Meals on Wheels. Ronald has an interest in wait times, equal access to care, and adjusting to an aging population.



Theresa Tasse, Cobalt – Theresa, now retired, worked for 36 years in elementary schools as an Educational Assistant for special needs students. Theresa is an active volunteer senior in her community and is a Director and Past President of her local Seniors Social Club. She also served on the Ontario Citizens' Council, an advisory body to the Executive Officer of Ontario's Public Drug Programs and the Minister of

Health and Long-Term Care. Theresa is passionate about seniors' health care and ensuring people have access to quality health care, with a focus on mental health and addictions treatments, in timely manner.

Sudbury-Manitoulin-Parry Sound Sub-Region



Susan Koppisch, Parry Sound – Susan has had a variety of interactions with the health care system and is looking forward to sharing her insights. Susan is passionate about patient care and volunteers with the rehab unit of her local hospital and loves putting a smile on a patient's face.



Jo-Anne McCool-Maki, Sudbury – Jo-Anne has extensive experience helping to facilitate care for family members. She has been the chair of the Family Council at Extendicare York for the past seven years and also volunteers doing pet therapy with hospice patients. Jo-Anne identifies collaboration and coordination as priorities and she is excited about the opportunity to participate on the committee.



Robert Porter, Massey – Robert Porter works as the Communications Coordinator for Sagamok Anishnawbek and is involved on several local committees. He has experience in First Nations community engagement and is motivated to serve on the committee so he can contribute to improving the quality of life for people in area communities. Robert also owns his own communications company.



Alexandra Sirois, Sudbury – Alexandra is studying for a Masters Degree in Exercise Physiology at McGill University. She is a graduate of Laurentian University and has a wealth of medical research and publication credits. Alexandra feels that there are unique northern realities with health care and she wants to make a difference. She is also a past recipient of the City of Greater Sudbury's Civic Award for Volunteerism.



Vanessa Morris, Chelmsford (*ex-officio, Youth Advisor*) – Vanessa is a grade 11 student at École Secondaire Catholique Champlain, where she sits on the student council. She is a member of the Chelmsford Community Action Network and has served as a Legislative Page at Queen's Park. She would like to see improved supports for sick children and access to quality care in Northern rural areas. Vanessa aspires to one day become a medical doctor.

James and Hudson Bay Coast Sub-Region

Minnie Jeffries, Moose Factory

Joey CheeChoo, Moose Factory