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**For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:**

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## **Seniors and Caregivers to receive more support**

*HHHS and partners enhancing services so people can stay in their homes and communities*

Seniors and residents from across Haliburton County will now have access to new and expanded services as Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) and other health service providers continue to work together to support people to stay in their homes and their communities.

With an investment of more than \$1 million by the Central East LHIN and the Ontario government, inter-disciplinary teams will now be providing more community health services to individuals with complex medical, social and/or cognitive issues.

This includes:

- Creating a new Rural Geriatric Assessment and Intervention Network (GAIN) Team where at-risk seniors will be supported at home by multi professional care teams and their primary care physicians;
- Introducing a new assisted living services program for high-risk seniors where eligible seniors will receive 24/7 scheduled and unscheduled visits for personal support services, homemaking services, security checks and care co-ordination;
- Establishing a new Palliative Care Community Team to provide clinical and non-clinical community-based care to palliative and end-of-life patients and their caregivers.

In addition, HHHS will now establish a physiotherapy clinic at the Minden site to complement its existing Physiotherapy Program and the Exercise and Falls Prevention classes offered throughout the County.

In announcing the investments at an event hosted by HHHS on January 13th, Wayne Gladstone, Chair of the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) stated that “these community investments represent a commitment made by the Ontario government in the Minister’s Action Plan for Health to provide better home and community care and the LHIN’s mission of creating an integrated, sustainable health care system that ensures better health, better care, better value for money.” He added that “the community health service integration that HHHS and its partners participated in over the past few years has led to investments in these types of comprehensive integrated health care solutions, all designed to improve people’s experience with the health care system.”

In responding John Kay, Board Chair of HHHS said that HHHS “was extremely thankful to the Ontario government and the Central East LHIN for this investment in Haliburton County and that it is clear that the LHIN recognizes that there is a growing population of seniors in the County who have complex health issues.”

For long-time hospice volunteer Dorothy Owen, who also attended the January 13<sup>th</sup> event, the announcement was welcome news.

“This is such an exciting announcement,” said Mrs. Owen. “In my experience, both professionally and as a volunteer, individuals want to remain in their homes for as long as they possibly can. These investments will provide opportunities and access to services that can make that wish a reality and will also provide better quality of life for the living and also for the dying. I am so thankful to all who have made this possible. Haliburton County is a wonderful place to live and it just got even better!”

Mrs. Owen, who is a member of the HHHS Community Advisory Committee, also spoke about the importance of working with local seniors and their caregivers as these new services are established and implemented and committed to working with HHHS to share the news.

Varouj Eskedjian, President and CEO of HHHS recognized all the health care providers who work with HHHS staff, physicians and volunteers in providing community-based and primary care to the residents of Haliburton County including the Central East Community Care Access Centre, SIRCH, members of the Haliburton County Service Providers Network, other long-term care homes, the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team and HHHS’ regional partners at Community Care City of Kawartha Lakes and Ross Memorial Hospital.

“Through our recent integration with community support and hospice services, HHHS can now provide County residents with streamlined access to more health and support services,” said Varouj Eskedjian. “These new investments in community services, along with our strengthened partnerships with other providers, are consistent with HHHS’ new Strategic Plan of doing more and better for the residents of the Highlands, developing as a rural health hub and achieving our vision of being Leaders in Innovative Rural Health Care.”

## Backgrounder:

Project	Project Description	2015/16 Funding
Haliburton Highlands GAIN Team	Based on the GAIN models already underway across the LHIN, an inter-professional Rural GAIN Team will support patients at home and in the community. Using gerontological best practices, standardized assessments and protocols, individualized integrated care plans will be created for high risk seniors who will then be supported by a Care Coordinator, in partnership with their primary care provider, to navigate and receive direct care from the system including access to community programs.	\$515,000
Behavioral Supports Ontario – GAIN Team	BSO staff, with special training in responding to patients with complex and challenging mental health, dementia or other neurological conditions, will work with the HHHS GAIN Team to support care in the community.	\$85,000
Community GAIN Coordinator – GAIN Team	Working directly with Primary Care and other clinicians and co-located in the GAIN Team, a Community GAIN Coordinator will support clients to navigate and receive care from the health and social services system. Based on the client's individualized integrated care plan, clients will have direct access to the HHHS GAIN Team and other LHIN-funded community-based programs.	\$125,000
Assisted Living for High Risk Seniors	Based on models already underway across the LHIN, HHHS will support 10 people a year to maintain their independence and remain in their homes by establishing an ALHRS program for people located within 15 minutes of HHHS' current supportive housing offices in Minden, Haliburton and Wilberforce.	\$148,337
Palliative Care Community Team (PCCT)	The Haliburton Highlands PCCT is an integrated interdisciplinary approach to palliative and hospice care that will improve overall access to expert and responsive care across all care settings. The newly funded PCCT will work with the HHHS Palliative/Hospice Manager to coordinate services with local provider team partners to facilitate high quality of life, up to and including end of life and the management of symptoms.	\$122,450
Physiotherapy Clinic Services	A Community Physiotherapy Clinic will be established to provide services for seniors over 65 years of age and those who have undergone major surgery or are recovering from major debilitating illnesses.	\$110,760
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,106,547</b>

### HHHS Hospitals

Haliburton - Acute & Emergency Hospital  
7199 Gelert Rd., P.O. Box 115, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0  
Tel: (705) 457-1392 Fax: (705) 457-2398  
Minden – Emergency Hospital  
6 McPherson St., P.O. Box 30, Minden, ON K0M 2K0  
Tel: (705) 286-2140 Fax: (705)286-6384

### HHHS Long-Term Care

Highland Wood  
7199 Gelert Rd., P.O. Box 115 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0  
Tel: (705) 457-1392 Fax: (705) 457-2081  
Hyland Crest  
6 McPherson St., P.O. Box 30, Minden, ON K0M 2K0  
Tel: (705) 286-2140 Fax: (705) 286-3722

### Community Support Services Division

7185 Gelert Rd., P.O. Box 459  
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0  
Tel: (705) 457-2941 Fax: (705) 457-5077