



CENTRAL EAST LHIN INVESTS IN PROGRAMS SUPPORTING SENIORS

May 20, 2009

NEWS

The Central East Local Health Integration Network is receiving \$12,267,186 in 2009/10, an increase of \$5,758,134 to ensure more seniors can continue to live independently and to allow hospital patients to receive appropriate care in the right setting.

As part of the successful Aging at Home program, the Central East LHIN is receiving \$6,893,811 to help seniors receive needed health services in the comfort and dignity of their own homes and communities, instead of in a hospital. The Aging at Home program combines traditional health services – such as home care and supportive housing – with new, locally-driven, innovative approaches to caring for seniors.

The Central East LHIN is also receiving:

- \$3,506,200 for increased home care, personal support and homemaking services provided by Community Care Access Centres
- \$1,688,675 to invest in local solutions that will address alternate level of care (ALC) pressures
- \$178,500 for nurse-led outreach teams to provide more care to patients in long-term care homes and help them avoid transfers to a hospital emergency room. (Two nurse-led outreach teams are also being created with funds provided through the Aging at Home Strategy.)

ALC patients are individuals in hospital beds who would be better cared for in alternate setting, such as long-term care, rehab, or at home. Having more home care and community services enables ALC patients to leave hospital sooner, making more beds available to emergency room patients.

QUOTES

“This funding builds on the successes of our Aging at Home programs for seniors and initiatives to reduce ALC pressures in the Central East LHIN,” says Deborah Hammons, CEO of the Central East LHIN. “Our health service providers will be able to continue the good work they are doing, keeping seniors healthy, independent and in their homes.”

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QUICK FACTS

- The Ontario government is investing \$1.1 billion over four years in the Aging at Home Strategy.
- It is estimated that Ontario's senior population will double over the next 16 years.
- The Ontario Hospital Association indicates that hospital patients who are awaiting access to appropriate care elsewhere occupy almost 19 per cent of hospital beds in the province.

For more information:

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