



### HALIBURTON COUNTY HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE ACCESS

#### NEWS

June 22, 2012

Local organizations providing health care to the residents of Haliburton County are working together to improve access and ensure that their organizations are ready to meet the needs of a changing population by becoming part of a Central East LHIN Integration Planning Team.

The Haliburton County Integration Planning Team (IPT), which held its first meeting on May 18th, includes representatives of LHIN funded health service providers whose main offices are permanently located in Haliburton County. Unique to the Haliburton County integration process, two critical partners, the Central East Community Care Access Centre and the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team have been included on the IPT because of their significant contribution to service delivery to local residents. Members of the IPT include:

- Community Care Haliburton County
- Haliburton Highlands Health Services
- SIRCH Community Services (Hospice Services)
- Central East Community Care Access Centre
- Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team

The work being done by the Haliburton County IPT is part of a larger Community Health Services Integration Strategy that was approved by the Central East LHIN Board in February 2012.

It is recognized that Haliburton County is unique to other parts of the Central East LHIN, because of its relative geographic isolation, distinct population and socio-economic realities. Recognizing these differences presents a unique opportunity in Haliburton County to create a comprehensive, integrated service delivery system that includes primary care, hospital services, and community-based health care.

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### QUOTES

“Our Haliburton County health care providers and their governors have a long history of working together to meet the health care needs of people in their community and clearly understand that a sustainable health care system is one that provides high quality services that make the best use of the public’s investment,” said Wayne Gladstone, Chair, Central East LHIN Board of Directors.

“We know that over the next 10 years the demand for community-based services will increase by 26% across the Central East region so it’s important that providers work together to respond to that demand,” said Deborah Hammons, CEO, Central East LHIN. “Supporting the design of an integrated health care system, that includes the hospital, will be a first for the LHIN and we look forward to the outcomes and the benefit it will bring to the Haliburton community.”

### QUICK FACTS

- Ensuring that Haliburton County residents have timely access to health services across its large, geographically remote area presents a number of challenges that will be addressed during the integration process.
- As a year-round tourism destination, Haliburton County health care providers have to respond to fluctuating volumes of patients and clients.
- The County of Haliburton has one of the largest seniors populations in the Province based on percentage of total population.
- In addition, Haliburton County has the highest percentage of Seniors 65+ (24.6%) versus the rest of the Central East LHIN (13.7%).
- With an aging population, it is expected that there will be an increasing demand for chronic disease, mental illness/dementia related services and palliative care.

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### LEARN MORE

As this process gets underway, residents and local organizations are invited to participate by providing comments through the Central East LHIN website [http://www.centraleastlhin.on.ca/report\\_display.aspx?id=23198](http://www.centraleastlhin.on.ca/report_display.aspx?id=23198) or by calling 1-866-804-5446 ext. 212.

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