



April 24, 2008

Provincial Recognition for Aging at Home Innovations in the North West LHIN

The North West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) wishes to thank the District Mental Health Services for Older Adults Program, NorWest Community Health Centres and St. Joseph's Care Group for being ambassadors for the Northwest at the *Aging at Home Innovations Showcase* held April 23rd in Toronto.

Representing the innovative and collaborative spirit in our region, the projects reflect innovation in seniors' services taking place in the North West LHIN.

District Mental Health Services for Older Adults Program, Canadian Mental Health Association, Fort Frances Branch

Seniors Safety Guide has been distributed throughout the Kenora/Rainy River Districts to provide seniors with information relevant to their health and safety. Included in this guide is information on prevention of falls, medication safety, physical health and wellness, mental health and wellness, fraud, scams and thefts, powers of attorney, elder abuse and neglect, and home safety. The guide, funded by the North West LHIN, has improved linkages and connections to seniors' services as it offers contact information on services available to this population in a format that is easy to read.

NorWest Community Health Centres

Based on the success of urgent care clinics and high demand for foot care and referral services, NorWest Community Health Centres began a mobile service, traveling to under-served rural communities within the District of Thunder Bay. The **Mobile Unit** traveling team consists of a Nurse Practitioner, a Foot Care Nurse, and a Community Health Worker. Services are provided as a "bundle" to communities where primary care services are non-existent or very limited. Residents and organizations from the communities provide invaluable support for the Mobile Unit by arranging a suitable space and helping promote the unit's services and health promotion events.

St. Joseph's Care Group

In response to the upcoming closure of 300 long-term care beds by the City of Thunder Bay, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced the establishment of a **Centre of Excellence for Integrated Seniors' Services** (CEISS) which will include:

- 336 long-term care beds to be operated by St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) including 64 specialized behavioural beds for seniors from across the region;
- 132 new supportive housing units to be co-located at the new CEISS;
- Enhanced community support services for 120 new clients;
- Increased Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) services for 30 additional clients; and
- Enhanced supportive housing units.

The CEISS concept is based on community engagement results and evidence-based practices and will promote coordination of care while enhancing linkages between sectors along the continuum of care.