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News Release

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Funding for More Services for Seniors in the North West LHIN

Seniors in supportive housing and those needing community support services at home will benefit from over \$1.5-million in investments approved by the North West LHIN Board of Directors.

Seventy-three seniors will benefit from two more initiatives being funded under the Aging at Home Strategy: respite service for caregivers of new senior clients in the city and the district of Thunder Bay and a program to support seniors discharged home from hospital.

In addition, various new and enhanced community support services and supportive housing projects for 573 seniors in Thunder Bay are being funded through the Integrated Seniors' Services funding, which is part of the broader Centre of Excellence for Integrated Seniors' Services (CEISS) project in Thunder Bay. Through this project, community supports are being expanded and existing supportive housing units enhanced to enable Thunder Bay seniors to live in the community and help prevent unnecessary reliance on long-term care.

Both the Aging at Home and CEISS initiatives offer more community supports to our seniors, helping them stay healthy, live longer at home in the community and reduce the pressures on emergency departments in the region.

QUOTES

"Seniors today want health care choices and prefer to age in their own homes," says Gwen DuBois-Wing, CEO of the North West LHIN. "The Aging at Home and CEISS initiatives announced today will provide individualized support to seniors in the city and district of Thunder Bay to live comfortably and safely in the community."

*Healthier people, a strong
health system – our future*

“We are delighted the North West LHIN has recognized respite service for families providing ongoing care for a senior loved one as an important investment to help seniors age at home,” says Carol Neff, Community Services Facilitator of Wesway. “These dedicated family caregivers need temporary breaks to re-charge their batteries so they can continue caring for their senior family member at home. Their devotion helps prevent premature admission to long-term care homes, unnecessary visits to the emergency room and non-essential stays in the hospital.”

“The Canadian Red Cross is excited to be a part this plan to help seniors stay in their homes and out of long-term care,” says Robert Kilgour, Thunder Bay Branch Manager. “It helps us meet our mandate to protect the vulnerable, while working to promote continuity of care with other organizations and agencies in Thunder Bay.”

QUICK FACTS

- 14% of the people in the North West LHIN are seniors.
- The NW LHIN's rate of hospital and emergency use among seniors is much higher than Ontario overall.
- The Centre of Excellence for Integrated Seniors' Services (CEISS) will include 336 long-term care beds, including 64 specialized behavioural beds, 132 new supportive housing units, and enhancements/expansions to community supports to enable 150 additional senior clients to be cared for in the community.
- The total Aging at Home funding proposals announced to date in the North West LHIN, including the eight initiatives in August, total \$946,000. Close to \$3.4-million will be invested in the Aging at Home initiative in the region throughout the next three years.

LEARN MORE

Read more about the [CEISS project](#) and the [North West LHIN's Aging at Home projects](#).

The North West LHIN is responsible for planning, integrating and funding local health services – hospitals, long term care facilities, the community care access centre, community health centres, community support services and mental health and addictions agencies. The North West LHIN and its Board of Directors are responsible for over \$535 million of health care services delivered in Northwestern Ontario.

Media Contacts

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Meals on Wheels and Jasper Place,
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Backgrounder

Funding for More Services for Seniors in the North West LHIN

The North West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) Board of Directors has approved various investments over 2008/09 and 2009/10 for new health service projects and the enhancement of support programs and supportive housing for seniors in Thunder Bay and the region.

Through the Aging at Home Strategy, \$342,100 will be invested towards respite care pilot project for caregivers of seniors in the Thunder Bay District and a support program for seniors discharged home from hospital in Thunder Bay. These initiatives will serve approximately 73 new clients in 2008/09. The Aging at Home Strategy is designed to meet the health and wellness needs of seniors who require assistance to live at home independently and reduce reliance on hospitals and long-term care homes.

Through Integrated Seniors' Services funding (part of the broader CEISS project), home help, homemaking, home maintenance (including snow shoveling) and repair, respite care, and meal programs are being expanded to serve 310 existing and 263 additional seniors in Thunder Bay over 2008/09 and 2009/10. Services to existing support housing residents are being enhanced as well. The CEISS project addresses the upcoming closure of 300 municipal long-term care (LTC) beds in Thunder Bay and offers new supportive housing and services for seniors who prefer to age in the community.

Altogether, these new and enhanced services will benefit 646 seniors in the city and district of Thunder Bay.

Aging at Home Strategy Investments

Community Support Service Expansion – 2008/09:			
Health Service Provider	Service Description	# of Clients	Investment
Wesway	<p>Respite Services for Seniors in the District of Thunder Bay</p> <p>This innovative pilot program will provide respite services for frail seniors and their caregivers living in small communities throughout the District of Thunder Bay.</p>	28 (new clients)	\$ 182,100

	Benefit to Seniors: Respite care is essential for dedicated family caregivers who require temporary breaks. The program is designed to be flexible, accommodating the strengths and needs of each family.		
Saint Elizabeth Health Centre	<p>Smooth Transitions: A Home Discharge Program</p> <p>This service is designed to help seniors in Thunder Bay, who are without adequate caregiver support and ineligible for CCAC homecare services, to return home and settle safely after an emergency department visit or hospital stay at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. Services will include transportation from hospital to home, settlement and follow-up.</p> <p>Benefit: Provides short-term enhanced services to assist seniors in successfully transitioning from hospital to home and remaining independent.</p>	45 (new clients)	\$ 160,000
TOTAL – Aging at Home Funding		73	\$342,100

Community Investments under CEISS

Community Support Service Enhancements/Expansions (2008/09-2009/10):			
Health Service Provider	Service Description	# of Clients	Investment
The Canadian Red Cross Society (expansion of three programs for new clients in Thunder Bay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Help • Home Maintenance & Repair • Congregate Dining 	50 30 110	\$ 228,164

	Benefits: Provides seniors with the help they need to stay in their homes and companionship for isolated seniors.		
Wesway (enhancement and expansion of respite services in Thunder Bay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respite – existing clients • Respite – new clients Benefit: Prevents burnout of caregivers of senior loved-ones at home, which helps the seniors live in the community longer.	37 24	\$ 301,080
City of Thunder Bay (expansion for new clients)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meals on Wheels Benefit: Ensures seniors are eating well and staying healthy.	30	\$ 50,333
Subtotal	New clients Existing clients	244 37	\$ 579,577

Supportive Housing Enhancements:

Enhancements include additional personal support worker time for the seniors living in Jasper Place (City of Thunder Bay) and P.R. Cook (St. Joseph's Care Group), when required. Personal support workers provide services like cleaning and meal preparation.

Benefit: Funding this additional support helps the seniors remain in supportive housing rather than having to be moved to long-term care.

2008/09:

City of Thunder Bay	Supportive Housing - existing clients	107	\$ 105,933
St. Joseph's Care Group	Supportive Housing - existing clients - new clients	96 19	\$ 105,933
2009/10:			
City of Thunder Bay	Supportive Housing - existing clients	107	\$ 211,867
St. Joseph's Care Group	Supportive Housing - existing clients - new clients	96 19	
Subtotal	New clients Existing clients	19 203	\$ 423,733

**Network of Individualized Community Enhancements (NICE) Fund
(2008/09-2009/10):**

The North West Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) will manage this fund which assists health service providers in managing time-limited, extraordinary costs that meet the needs of seniors, while maintaining them in the community.

North West CCAC	Various individualized, time-limited investments - existing clients	70	\$ 200,000
Subtotal	Existing clients	70	\$ 200,000
Total CEISS Funding	Total New clients Total Existing clients	263 310	\$1,203,310