

## MEDIA RELEASE

### North East LHIN Invests in Meeting the Needs of People Experiencing Mental Health and Addictions Issues

**NORTH BAY- March 11, 2015** - Earlier today, the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) announced investments in North Bay and area that will better meet the needs of Northerners who are experiencing mental health and addictions challenges.

In total, \$4.4 million was announced for projects and services including mental health peer support, care for people with acquired brain injuries, housing support, expanded forensic mental health services for women, and help for parents through the launch of a Northern Ontario Postpartum Mood Disorders Network strategy.

“These North East LHIN investments are about better meeting the needs of Northerners and connecting them with quality care that is accessible and closer to home,” said Danielle Bélanger-Corbin, NE LHIN Board Chair. “Good quality health care happens by partners coming together from all corners of a community -- mental health providers, clients and peer support, hospital, the municipality, police services, and more.”

While most of the investments focused on community providers, the North Bay Regional Health Centre (NBRHC), which has a mandate to serve the entire region, will also receive \$3.7 million for new and expanded forensic services and to better serve individuals with developmental disabilities. This includes: \$3.2 million for eight forensic psychiatry beds for adult women, \$440,000 for a transitional rehabilitation housing program, and \$100,000 for behaviour therapy.

Additional investments include:

- **Promotion of Postpartum Mood Disorders (PPMD) Network** in Northern Ontario and other areas of the province, to increase awareness/access. (\$15,000 to Community Counselling Centre of Nipissing).



NE LHIN Board Chair, Danielle Bélanger-Corbin (second from right), announced a total of \$4.4-million in investments to strengthen mental health and addictions services and access for Northerners. She is shown with representatives of the some of the LHIN’s partner providers (left to right): Alan McQuarrie, Executive Director, Community Counselling Centre Of Nipissing; Georges Kristolaitis, Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association / Nipissing Regional Branch; Mary Davis, ED of Nipissing Mental Health Housing and Support Services; Paul Heinrich, CEO of North Bay Regional Health Centre; Michael Lowe, Chair, NBRHC Board of Directors; and John Bowcott, ED, People for Equal Partnership in Mental Health).

- **North Bay Community Mobilization Hub** to continue building a forum for partners from all corners of the North Bay and area community come together to discuss and deliver individually tailored care plans for people at risk. (\$70,000 to CMHA-Nipissing).
- **Peer support** to provide recovery-oriented programs for 100 new clients in Mattawa and surrounding area. (\$75,000 to People for Equal Partnership in Mental Health).
- **Expansion of case management support** to Mattawa and surrounding area for 250 people with mental health and addictions issues. (\$95,000 to Nipissing Mental Health Housing and Support Services).
- **Acquired Brain Injury supports** to transition three long-stay individuals with brain injury from NBRHC into the community. (\$400,000 to Nipissing Mental Health Housing and Support Services)

Paul Heinrich, President and CEO of the North Bay Regional Health Centre said: “This new highly specialized Provincial level female forensic psychiatry unit is a testament to the NBRHC team's reputation for high quality care and demonstrated reliability. In addition, the announced community investments will allow some of our long stay mental health patients who require more custodial care with support to live in an environment more suitable to their well-being, while making hospital beds available for higher level care.”

“We welcome this investment in the community, and through this multi-agency partnership, we are able to provide ongoing support to people in their move from hospital, and allow them to live as independent citizens in the community,” said Mary Davis, Executive Director, Nipissing Mental Health Housing and Support Services.

#### **FACTS**

- In addition to today's mental health and addiction service support for people living in the North Bay/Nipissing area, the North East LHIN is investing in region-wide programs to increase access and reduce wait time for people needing care. This includes support to increase the number of children assessed each month at the Fetal Alcohol Disorders Clinic, to support mental health and addiction tenants with rent supplements, and to increase the care provided through telepsychiatry.
- Making mental health and substance abuse treatment services more accessible for Northerners is one of four priorities in the North East LHIN's 2013-2016 strategic plan.
- About 30 per cent of Ontarians will experience a mental health and/or substance abuse challenge at some point in their lifetime, with one out of 40 Ontarians experiencing a serious mental illness.

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#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Please contact Kathleen Bain, Communications Officer, NE LHIN, at [Kathleen.bain@lhins.on.ca](mailto:Kathleen.bain@lhins.on.ca) or (705) 840-2340.

## **BACKGROUNDER ON THE WOMEN'S FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY UNIT AT NBRHC**

The unique needs of women in the forensic mental health system requires the development of a dedicated, highly supported and secure inpatient unit to better respond to specific needs which often involves complex disorders and related challenging behaviours. North Bay Regional Health Centre has been chosen by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to develop and operate this specialized intensive treatment, rehabilitation and behavioural management service for the Province. It takes into account the differences in the offending, medical and psychiatric profiles of women.

With an investment of \$3.74-million from the North East Local Health Integration Network, NBRHC will develop and operate an 8-bed forensic service for adult women (18 yrs+) who have been found unfit to stand trial or not criminally responsible due to mental disorder and are subject to Disposition Orders of the Ontario Review Board (ORB) under the Criminal Code of Canada.

This total includes \$3.2-million in funding for the women's unit, \$440,000 for a transitional rehabilitation housing program, and \$100,000 for behaviour therapy. The latter two programs are being provided to better serve patients with developmental disabilities and subject to ORB Disposition Orders.

The hospital anticipates the new unit for women will open in approximately 18 to 20 months.

Patients in this unit will stay from 18 months to three years depending on their individualized need and plan of care.

"Women referred to our service will likely have had complicated lives, failed treatments and negative clinical experiences," said H el ene Philbin Wilkinson, Director, Dual Diagnosis and Mental Health & the Law. "As such, our long term goal will be to foster an internal change process within patients in a trusting therapeutic environment while facilitating continuity of care planning with our referring hospitals. We will work with our partners to gain their input into care decisions about the patient on an on-going basis."

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### **For more information:**

Kathy Stackelberg  
Sr. Communications Specialist  
North Bay Regional Health Centre  
[kathy.stackelberg@nbrhc.on.ca](mailto:kathy.stackelberg@nbrhc.on.ca)  
705.474.8600 ext. 7811 or Cell 705.492.1235