



Northwestern Ontario District Health Council 2002-2003 Annual Report



Shaping the Future of the Health System in Northwestern Ontario

Our Vision

Recognized as a leader and partner
in health planning

Our Mission

To improve the health status of
Northwestern Ontario residents

Northwestern Ontario District Health Council

The Northwestern Ontario District Health Council is comprised of health care providers, consumers and local government representatives. Members of this board are volunteer representatives appointed through Order-In-Council by the Lieutenant Governor on the recommendation of the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. The role of the DHC is to provide regional planning advice to the Minister, taking into consideration local health needs and priorities.

Council 2002/2003

Chair: Eiji Tsubouchi - Thunder Bay

Emile Blouin - Kenora

Clifford Bowles - Thunder Bay

Paulina Chow - Thunder Bay

Helen Cromarty - Thunder Bay

Walter Flasz - Thunder Bay

Trevor Giertuga - Thunder Bay

Nancy Greaves - Sioux Lookout

Janice Lessy - Thunder Bay

William Martin - Fort Frances

Tammy McEachern Hughes - Thunder Bay

Derek Mills - Sioux Lookout

Dr. Peter Neelands - Thunder Bay

Joanne Ranger - Greenstone - Longlac

Eric Rutherford - Greenstone - Beardmore

Louise Sawchuk - Atikokan

Andrew Skene - Dryden

Frances White - Ignace

Message from the Chair and Executive Director

This year marks a milestone for the DHC system as we celebrate 30 years of health planning in Ontario. The Northwestern Ontario DHC (NWODHC) is one of 16 DHCs in the province planning collaboratively with health care consumers, providers and others to strengthen the health system. While we have witnessed a complex and changing global landscape over the past 30 years, the need for community-based health planning remains ever more important.

DHCs were developed in the belief that community members can best determine local health needs and priorities. The goal of all partners in health planning is to achieve a health system that provides high-quality, comprehensive and accessible services that improve health at every stage of a person's life. Over the past year, the NWODHC worked with various groups of consumers, providers and agencies to plan for health and health service delivery in the Northwest. With our partners we:

- Completed the *Northwestern Ontario Health Human Resources Study* with assistance from the Northwest Health Network and with funding from Human Resources Development Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. The study results were launched regionally via video-conferencing through NORTH Network;
- Consulted with providers in Northwestern Ontario on the Kirby and Romanow Reports and provided feedback based on our consultation sessions to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care;
- Released the *Northwestern Ontario Health System Monitoring Report 2002* which provides a comprehensive overview of the health status of the residents and health system in our region;
- Co-hosted a workshop on *Integration and Coordination in the North* along with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ontario Hospital Association;
- Participated in several round-table consultations with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care;
- Embarked upon a number of planning initiatives including a regional planning process for End Stage Renal Disease, a long-term care services plan, an environmental scan of cardiac services in the Northwest, and a regional supportive housing study.

In early 2003, the Northwestern Ontario DHC engaged in a strategic planning process which resulted in a revitalized vision: "Recognized as a leader and partner in health planning". A major outcome of the session was a strengthened focus on rural, remote and northern health. As Council pursues its strategic direction, we will continue to engage and work with consumers, providers and various organizations in planning to meet local health needs.

This report highlights some of the DHC's planning accomplishments for 2002/03. The Northwestern Ontario DHC has been fortunate to work with numerous talented, committed Council members, volunteers and staff. We appreciate the significant time and expertise that these individuals have given to improve the health system in Northwestern Ontario.



Eiji Tsubouchi

Eiji Tsubouchi
Chair



Gwen DuBois-Wing

Gwen DuBois-Wing
Executive Director

Landmark DHC Document Released

The *Northwestern Ontario Health Human Resources Study: Final Report 2002* is the culmination of 12 months of research into the health human resources situation in Northwestern Ontario. Health human resources planning has emerged as a significant issue as concerns regarding current and future shortages grow. The study includes an inventory of healthcare professional and allied healthcare workers, factors that influence the future need for healthcare providers, recruitment and retention strategies, and education and training issues.

Labour Market Survey Reports

In collaboration with the Ontario Hospital Association and the other 15 DHCs, the NWODHC released two Labour Market Survey Reports:

1. *Ontario District Health Councils' Provincial Labour Market Survey - Provincial Findings Report, July 2002*
2. *The Ontario District Health Councils' Provincial Health Care Labour Market Survey, July 2002 and The Ontario Hospital Association First Annual Health Care Provider Labour Market Survey, February 2002 – Combined Findings Report, (March 31, 2003)*

Collectively, these reports contribute to our understanding of health human resources issues. Further, they provide information on recruitment and retention issues, provider agency perceptions of factors influencing labour shortages, current and anticipated labour shortages and an assessment of the impact of these shortages.

Northern Ontario Child & Youth Health Report

The NWODHC was one of the partners in the development of the Northern Ontario Child and Youth Health Report. This report provides a comprehensive review of the health status, health behaviours and overall well-being of 7 to 19 year-olds in Northern Ontario. The Northern

Health Information Partnership was the lead organization in this undertaking partnering with agencies, universities, District Health Units and District Health Councils. The report's findings can be accessed by linking to www.nhip.org.

Volunteers are the Key to the DHC System

Volunteers are vital to the DHC system. We have been very fortunate to work with so many dedicated volunteers this past year. With the Northwestern Ontario District Health Council's region covering almost 60% of the province's landmass, our volunteers travel significant distances to attend various DHC meetings and activities. This involves tremendous time and personal commitment!

Our volunteers provide valuable input at community, district and regional levels. We appreciate the skills, knowledge and expertise they bring to the development of studies, reports and recommendations which impact planning of the health system in Northwestern Ontario.

Our volunteers make a difference! Their commitment inspires us to constantly improve and seek new ways to address the changing needs of our health system. We extend a tremendous thanks to the many individuals who were involved in Council, committee, task and work groups of the Northwestern Ontario District Health Council over the past year.

DHC Collaborates on Dementia Networks

As part of Ontario's Strategy for Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementias, the Northwestern Ontario District Health Council provided planning support to the two dementia networks in Northwestern Ontario, one in the Thunder Bay District, the other in the Kenora/Rainy River Districts over the past year.

The goal of the dementia networks is "to improve the system of care required by persons with

dementia, their families and caregivers". The intent is for organizations to have improved responsiveness and accessibility through the improved linkages created by these two dementia networks. As a result of this collaborative work, it is expected that persons with dementia and their families will benefit from improved access to services, information and support.

Emerging Health Policy Session Featured by the DHC

In June, Trent Gow, President, Thompson Gow & Associates, presented *The Politics, People and Processes of Health Care Policy in Ontario: The Current Situation* at a session hosted by the Northwestern Ontario District Health Council. Mr. Gow offered insights on the new provincial government and its emerging health policy agenda. Some of the topics included an overview of the legislative process, how to influence policy, and mechanisms to address some Northwest-specific issues.

Mental Health and Addictions Planning Activities

Planning in both Mental Health and Addictions continues to be an integral part of NWODHC work. DHC staff continue to work with the Addictions Implementation Committees in both the Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay Districts. Recent activities include discussions regarding Methadone service and review as well as follow-up to the DHC's Integrated Service Plan.

Community Mental Health, Addictions, and Problem Gambling programs funded by the MOHLTC submitted their 2003-04 Operating Plans to the Ministry. The DHC completed a review of these plans and submitted comments to the MOHLTC on significant program changes and their impact at the system level.

The NWODHC worked closely with the Northwest Mental Health Implementation Task Force. This work included reviewing system models of governance and integration including a restructured mental health system. The report and its recommendations for system improvements were submitted to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care for analysis and provincial roll up in December 2002.

Northwestern Ontario Health System Monitoring Report Advances Understanding of Regional Profile

The Northwestern Ontario Health System Monitoring Report 2002: A Technical Report is a one-stop reference source comprised of information from a variety of provincial and national health databases. Released by the NWODHC in September 2002, it provides a snapshot of the health status and health services utilization of residents in Northwestern Ontario based on currently available information. The report highlights baseline data from which the progress of our local and regional health system may be monitored in the future. Copies of the report can be downloaded from our web site at www.nwodhc.com.

Phase Two, the follow-up to this report, is underway. Provincial DHCs have collaborated to identify comparative data and several core indicators that will be measured over time.

Visit the DHC On-line!

Our web site, www.nwodhc.com, is intended to inform the public about the Northwestern Ontario District Health Council and about its current activities, to provide access to reports, and to serve as a resource for those interested in health planning.

Renowned Long-Term Care Researcher Visits Thunder Bay

Dr. Neena Chappell, a renowned researcher and the founding Director of the Center on Aging at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, highlighted some of her research findings for long-term care providers and stakeholders in Thunder Bay. Her session focussed on care for caregivers, care for people with dementia, chronic disease and disability, and community-based home and residential care. She also addressed the Canadian healthcare system and the future of long-term care facilities.

For additional information regarding Dr. Chappell's work, visit the University of Victoria web site at www.coag.uvic.ca.

Supportive Housing Study Underway

Research tells us that institutional living may be delayed or prevented if sufficient levels of services are provided within a supportive housing environment. Many senior citizen housing complexes throughout the region have supportive housing programs. These programs include on-site, personal support staff, 24-hours a day to help people live independently in their own apartments. Frail, elderly people, people

with physical disabilities or acquired brain injuries, and those with HIV/AIDS can receive personal care through these programs.

A *Northwestern Ontario Supportive Housing Study* sponsored by the NWODHC is expected to be completed in late 2003. The study will explore existing resources, gaps in services, and, various supportive housing models.

Northwestern Ontario DHC Hosts Dialogue on Romanow and Kirby Reports

The Northwestern Ontario District Health Council sponsored two timely education workshops on the proposed changes to Canada's healthcare system identified in the Romanow and Kirby reports. Two sessions for Board Chairs and Chief Executive Officers/Executive Directors were held in Thunder Bay on January 14th and in Dryden on January 15th, 2003. Mr. Trent Gow, a public policy consultant, facilitated the sessions.

The workshops brought together over 100 healthcare decision-makers in Northwestern Ontario to develop an understanding of proposed reform strategies. The sessions provided an opportunity for the DHC and workshop participants to identify healthcare reform priorities and actions that may facilitate Northwestern Ontario's contribution to the national healthcare debate.

Environmental Scan of Cardiac Services Underway in NWO

Current information regarding existing and planned services for the continuum of cardiac care services in Northwestern Ontario, from health promotion to treatment and rehabilitation, is being developed by the NWODHC. The DHC is updating and expanding the information in the *2001 District Health Council's Cardiac Services in Northwestern Ontario: A Discussion Paper*.

Information areas that are being highlighted include: the identification of current and planned cardiac services, gaps in knowledge and information, and common issues and trends in Northwestern Ontario.

As well, this background document will identify demographic and statistical data regarding population and health indicators; risk factors and incidence of cardiac disease in the region; existing cardiac services; and, new or planned cardiac services for the next 3-5 years. The report will be completed in early fall 2003.

Northwest Health Network

In collaboration with the NWODHC, the Northwest Health Network is undertaking an effort to develop an overview profile of hospital specific community referral/catchment area populations. The Network is also endeavouring to identify both hospital and community health system services available in each of the catchment/referral areas. The purpose of this effort is to produce an information and resource document to support evidence-based service and system planning. The Northwest Health Network is comprised of all Northwestern Ontario hospitals and other community-based health agencies in the region.

French Language Health Services

Responsible for developing and/or maintaining mechanisms to ensure that the needs of the Francophone population are integrated into health system planning activities in Northwestern Ontario, the French Language Services (FLS) Committee is focussed towards improving health services for French-speaking Northwestern Ontario residents. Work of the Committee includes review of the *French Language Services Implementation Plans* of transfer payment agencies to be submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The FLHS Committee assisted in the development of the Regional French Language Health Services Plan 2002-03 for the District Health Council.

Long-Term Care Work

The Long-Term Care Task Group, comprised of both consumers and providers, is assisting the NWODHC in the formulation of the *2002/03 Regional Long-Term Care District Service Plan* and in developing recommendations regarding Long-Term Care services in Northwestern Ontario. The recommendations are intended to improve long-term care services throughout the region. Information for the plan was gathered through key informant interviews, a literature review, as well as a survey and review of annual service agreements for transfer payment agencies. The report will be released in late fall 2003.

NWODHC Reports

Recent publications produced by the Northwestern Ontario District Health Council can be found in "pdf" form, unless otherwise indicated. Most reports are posted on the NWODHC web site at www.nwodhc.com. Alternately, you may wish to contact the DHC office by calling (807) 623-6131 or by e-mail at planning@nwodhc.com.



- *Northwestern Ontario Health Human Resources Study, September 2002*
- *Northwestern Ontario Health System Monitoring Report 2002: A Technical Report, September 2002*
- *Northwestern Ontario District Health Council Operating Plan, April 2002*
- *Strategies To Enhance Health Human Resources Capacity and Utilization in Northwestern Ontario, 2003*
- *Northwestern Ontario French Languages Services Regional Plan, November 2002*
- *The Ontario District Health Councils' Provincial Health Care Labour Market Survey, July 2002 and The Ontario Hospital Association First Annual Health Care Provider Labour Market Survey, February 2002 – Combined Findings Report (March 31, 2003)*
- *Ontario District Health Councils' Provincial Labour Market Survey - Provincial Findings Report, July 2002*
- *Community Mental Health Operating Plans; Addiction Operating Plans Review, 2002*

DHC Committee/Task Group Membership 2002 - 2003

Executive Committee

Eiji Tsubouchi (Chair)
Andrew Skene (Vice-Chair)
Paulina Chow (Treasurer)
Tammy McEachern
Hughes
Louise Sawchuk

Council Recruitment and Development Committee

Cliff Bowles (Chair)
Janice Lessy
Tammy McEachern
Hughes
Louise Sawchuk
Andrew Skene
Eiji Tsubouchi

Audit Committee

Paulina Chow (Chair)
Cliff Bowles
Walter Flasz
Eiji Tsubouchi

Bylaw Review Committee

Fran White (Chair)
Cliff Bowles
Andrew Skene
Eiji Tsubouchi

Governance Committee

(Replaced the Council Recruitment and Development & Bylaw Review Committees after Sept 21, 2002)

Tammy McEachern
Hughes (Chair)
Cliff Bowles
Joanne Ranger
Louise Sawchuk
Andrew Skene
Eiji Tsubouchi

French Language Services Committee

Joanne Ranger** (Chair)
Mario Audet
Emile Blouin** (R)
Diane Breton*
Denyse Culligan
Don Edwards
Marlene Pavletic (R)
Sylvie Ranger -
Duranceau
Janet Sillman
Eiji Tsubouchi**

Hospital/Community Health System Profile Task Group

Carl White (Chair)
Kelly Isfan
Christy McClelland
Wade Petranik
Jill Pascoe

Long-Term Care Task Group

Paulina Chow ** (Chair)
Alice Bellavance
Judi Gyschuk
Mary-Ellen Hill
Wendy Kirkpatrick
Betty Anne Nurse*
William Martin**
Norm Poolton
Tuija Puiras
Olga Samparo
Eiji Tsubouchi**

Health System Monitoring Report Work Group

Margaret Boone
Paulina Chow**
Heidi Greenwell
Scott Henderson*
Kevin Holder
Christy McClelland
Dr. William Montelpare
John Ostler
Marlene Pavletic (R)
Wade Petranik
Dr. Pete Sarsfield
Lee Sieswerda
Janet Sillman
Patti Tittlemier

NWO Health Human Resources Transition Task Group

Eiji Tsubouchi (Chair)**
Sue Berry
Tracy Buckler
Judith Harris
Donna Lyons
Dr. Bruce Minore
Scott Potts
Jim Restall*
Debbie Sargent
Louise Sawchuk**
Andrew Skene**

End Stage Renal Disease Services Task Group

Cliff Bowles (Chair)
Judith Carroll (R)
Elizabeth Clark
Nancy Greaves**
Susan Griffith
Judith Harris
Maureen Judge*
Dr. William McCready
Carmen Moonias-
Lavoie
Sandra Petzel
Sylvie Ranger-
Duranceau
Julia Salomon
Marg Stevenson

LEGEND * Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care ** NWO District Health Council Member (R) Retired

Opportunities for Health Services Integration and Co-Ordination: A Northern Focus

In early October 2002, over 180 people attended the Northern Conference co-sponsored by the Ontario Hospital Association, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and the northern District Health Councils. Sixteen speakers presented a wide range of regional, provincial, and inter-provincial perspectives on the current realities and potential opportunities for the co-ordination and integration of health services.

Conference participants discussed the key elements of a framework for the co-ordination and integration of health services delivery in Northern Ontario. In a taped video presentation, the Deputy Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Mr. Phil Hassen, urged participants to explore innovative opportunities and strategies for integration and working together to meet client needs. The Summary of Proceedings is available on the NWODHC's web site.

End Stage Renal (Kidney) Disease Planning Initiated

Recognizing the increasing prevalence of End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) in Northwestern Ontario, Council has established a Task Group to engage in an ESRD planning process. The task group's purpose is to gain a better understanding of the strengths, weaknesses and challenges of the available services and supports for ESRD. The ESRD Task Group will provide evidence-based recommendations to the NWODHC concerning ESRD care needs and the range of services and linkages required.

NWO DHC Staff

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Pat Stitt (R)

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Health Human Resources Study:

Sheldon Tetreault*

Susan Costigan**

(* resigned)

(** project ended)

(R retired)

Strategic Direction Revitalized

Northwestern Ontario DHC members participated in a Strategic Planning Retreat in early March. Linda Moore of The Neufeld Group assisted Council members in developing a revitalized Strategic Plan. The session, *A Gathering of Leaders*, provided Council with the opportunity to review its Mission, Vision and Values. As well, Council established its focus on rural, remote and Northern health, a key strategic direction in the Northwest.

Summarized Statement of Core Operating Fund Revenue and Expenditures

	2002/2003 Budget	2002/2003 Actual
Revenue:		
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care	\$933,489	\$933,489
Interest		7,396
Total Revenue	\$933,489	\$940,885
Expenditures:		
Salaries and Benefits	\$613,867	\$608,024
Operating Expenses	306,122	317,022
Capital	13,500	13,500
Total Expenditures	\$933,489	\$938,546
Ending Surplus		\$2,339

Note: This financial summary is an excerpt from the audited financial statements prepared by Buset and Buset Chartered Accountants. A copy of the complete audited financial statements is available from the DHC.



2002-2003 Annual Report

The Northwestern District Health Council welcomes responses to this report

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