

CENTRAL WEST LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK

Bulletin 1 – February 2006

INTRODUCING THE CENTRAL WEST LHIN

What is the Role of LHINs?

On November 24, 2005 the Ontario government introduced historic health care legislation. The Local Health System Integration Act 2005 will change the way health care is managed in Ontario by placing people squarely in the centre of the system.

The government shares a vision of a health system that will keep Ontarians healthy, will get them good care when they are sick, and will be there for their children and grand-children.

Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) are a fundamental part of the government's plan to build a stronger health system in Ontario.

LHINs will be responsible for planning, integrating and eventually funding local health services in 14 different geographic areas of Ontario.

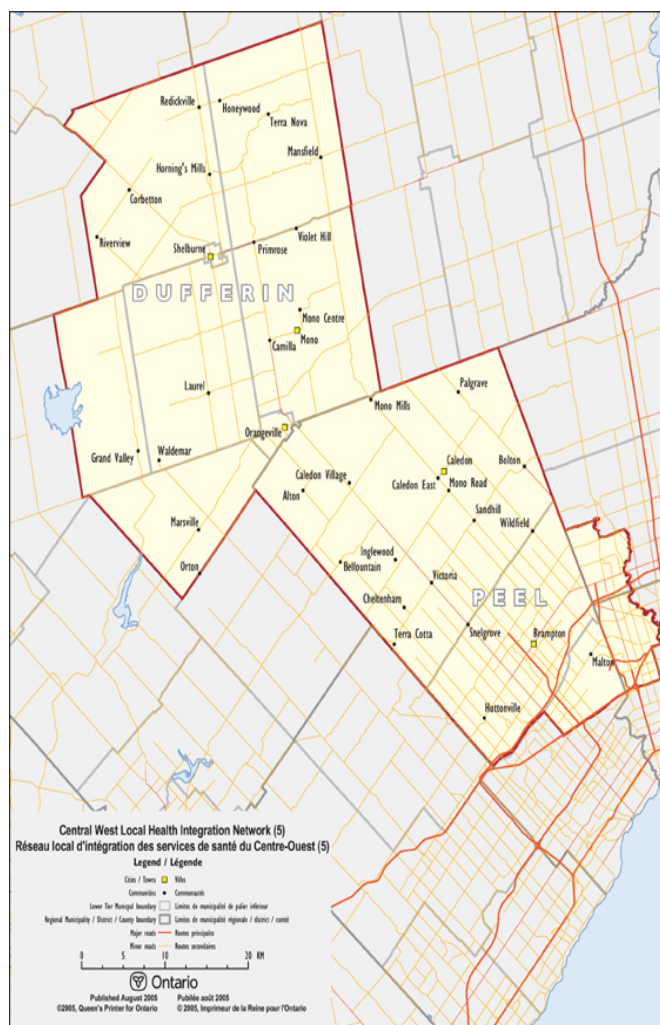
LHINs are intended to be the managers for health services that are delivered in hospitals, long-term care facilities, community health centres, community support services and mental health and addictions agencies.

The mandate of LHINs is to restore equity to Ontario's health care system, improving access to health services and the quality of health services through better integration and coordination of these services.

LHINs are based on a principle that health care is best planned, coordinated and funded in an integrated manner within the local community because local people can best determine their health service needs and priorities.

Under LHINs, community health care priorities will be identified at the local level, by people who are closer to what is really going on.

The Central West LHIN includes all of Dufferin County, the northern portion of Peel Region, and small parts of Toronto and York Region.



Central West Residents ... by the numbers

The Central West LHIN is home to 720,300 people, or approximately 5.8 per cent of Ontario's population. Fifty-two per cent of the population (about 325,400 people) of the Central West LHIN lives in Brampton. Approximately 131,700 people in the northwest portion of the City of Toronto are included in this LHIN. The Central West LHIN includes people in portions of the cities of Mississauga and Vaughan, and all of Dufferin County and Caledon.

From 1994 to 2004, the Central West LHIN's population grew annually, on average, by 3.3%. Compared to the province as a whole, the Central West LHIN's area has a relatively young population, with the lowest proportion of seniors in any LHIN. It has a high proportion of immigrants and the highest proportion of visible minorities in the province. The Central West LHIN includes urban, suburban and rural communities, with both high and low population concentrations. It is diverse in terms of geographical, ethno-cultural and socioeconomic characteristics.

Central West Residents ... and their health

Relative to the province, a higher percentage of the population in the Central West LHIN is physically inactive. However, the Central West LHIN has a lower prevalence of arthritis/rheumatism, heart disease and all-cause hospitalization rates. The Central West LHIN tends to have a lower prevalence of chronic conditions that are closely associated with age.

Although mammography and flu shot rates for the population of the Central West LHIN are the lowest in the province, they do not differ significantly from provincial rates. The use of other preventive health care services in Central West, such as Pap smears, is similar to provincial rates. The point of access for most medical care in the Central West LHIN is through a primary care physician. Medical doctors play a key role in coordinating care and managing chronic conditions for our residents. The majority of people in Central West had at least one contact, either in person or by phone, with a physician in the past year. The Central West LHIN has the lowest "localization index" of any LHIN, meaning that many of its residents receive some, or all, of their health care services from organizations outside the Central West LHIN's boundaries.

Central West Health Care Providers

Central West's dedicated health care professionals, supported by volunteers, provide a wide range of services within the LHIN. In broad strokes, preventative care, treatment, support and long term care services are available through addiction treatment centres, Community Care Access Centres, community health centres, hospitals, long-term care facilities, mental health groups and facilities, and community support services, as well as through individual clinicians. The Central West LHIN also recognizes the many other individuals and organizations that contribute to the health of the community.

Who are we?

Central West LHIN Board of Directors

Chair	Joe McReynolds, Caledon East
Vice-Chair	Terry Miller, Brampton
Secretary	Kuldip Kandola, Brampton
Member	Sukhjinder (Mintoo) Mand, Toronto
Member	Jack Prazeres, Mississauga
Member	Mavis Wilson, Shelburne

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How to Reach Us

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