

\$21.5 MILLION TO FLOW TO CENTRAL WEST LHIN FOR SENIORS' HEALTH

One of the Central West LHIN's health care priorities just received a welcome boost with a recently announced three-year \$21.5 million investment in a provincial Aging at Home Strategy. The funding means more seniors in our area will soon be able to maintain their health in the comfort and surroundings of their own homes.

According to The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, who made the announcement on August 28th, funding will start flowing to the LHIN on April 1, 2008.

"Our goal is to open a whole world of opportunity for seniors that will offer new lifestyle choices that are reflective of how Ontario's seniors truly want to live," said Smitherman.

The welcome news dovetails nicely with the Central West LHIN's priority focus on seniors' health. The LHIN's 'Aging in Place' strategy is among eight health care priorities identified by the Central West LHIN in our Integrated Health Service Plan (IHSP), which will guide health care planning over the next three years.

"This investment beautifully supports our Aging in Place strategy which focuses on providing seniors

with timely access to the health care they need wherever they are in the community," says Mimi Lowi-Young, CEO, Central West LHIN. "We look forward to working with health service providers, community-based services and social services within our LHIN to further develop the innovative strategies that will allow seniors to live independent lives at home."

The population of seniors living in the Central West LHIN is expected to increase by 90 per cent by 2016. Our projected growth rate of seniors is the highest among the 14 LHINs in the province and well above the provincial average.

The LHIN has already been working closely with community-based health services, the Central West Community Care Access Centre (CCAC), long-term care homes and hospital

representatives to dialogue about existing service gaps for seniors, to develop a comprehensive inventory of services and supports available to seniors and to begin to identify integration opportunities.

"This investment will help improve the lives of seniors in the Central West LHIN," says Joe McReynolds, Board Chair of the Central West LHIN.



Local seniors listen to The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care at recent Aging at Home announcement.

Continued from Page 1

"Seniors have told us that they wish to age in a healthy manner while achieving greater independence with access to more support and care allowing them to remain in their communities longer, close to friends and loved ones."

Approaches that may be explored include enhancing home care, opportunities for more active living and community support services like meals, transportation, adult day programs, friendly visiting and caregiver supports, as well as increased access to mobility aids that help seniors live more independent lives.



Health Minister George Smitherman and Brampton Regional Councillor John Sanderson check out local senior Tom Henhoeffer's 16th Century Village carved in cottonwood bark.



Smitherman listens to local senior from the Flower City Seniors Recreation Centre following the announcement.



Joe McReynolds, Board Chair of the Central West LHIN shares a seniors story with attendees.



Dr. Kuldip Kular, MPP Bramalea-Gore-Malton-Springdale addresses the attendees



Local senior Joyce Davey speaks of the benefits first at hand as an active senior.

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