

News Release / Pour publication immédiate

For Immediate Release
August 29, 2011

LHINS LAUNCH GROUNDBREAKING PROJECT **\$40 million invested in health human resources to support seniors with complex mental health needs**

CHATHAM-KENT – The Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network (ESC LHIN), along with Ontario's 14 Local Health Integration Networks is investing \$2.41 million dollars to enhance services for seniors who exhibit behaviours associated with complex and challenging mental health, dementia or other neurological conditions by investing in local initiatives that will improve care. The \$40 million dollar provincial investment will allow local health service providers to hire new staff – nurses, personal support workers and other health care providers – and train them in the specialized skills necessary to provide care for these patients with dignity and respect.

The investments is part of the provincial Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO) project, which focuses on providing quality care for individuals with these conditions, in an environment that is based on safety, high quality, evidence-based care and practice.

Four LHINs - Central East, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant, North Simcoe Muskoka and South East - will be developing and implementing their local plans beginning November 1, 2011 – with the remaining ten LHINs implementing in February 2012.

One of the goals of the BSO project is to ensure that staff working in health care settings – such as long-term care homes, community services and hospitals – are supported in caring for seniors with complex mental health needs.

The Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO) project is a collaboration between Local Health Integration Networks, Alzheimer Society of Ontario, Health Quality Ontario, and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.



Ontario

Erie St. Clair Local Health
Integration Network
Réseau local d'intégration
des services de santé
d'Érié St. Clair

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QUOTES

"We know Ontario's population is aging and that the number of seniors with dementia and other complex health needs is going to increase. Patients deserve to be managed with sensitive care. The Behavioural Supports Ontario Project – the first of its kind in Canada and only one of a handful in the world – will support this vulnerable population."

- Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

"The Alzheimer Society of Ontario applauds these much-needed investments that will strengthen the capacity of both families and our health-care system to improve the quality of life for this group of Ontarians. Today's announcement responds to solutions suggested by family caregivers and health-care personnel coping with these challenges every day, whether they're in hospitals, long-term care facilities or in their own homes. The Alzheimer Society looks forward to working with the LHINs in implementing this important project."

- Gale Carey, CEO, Alzheimer Society of Ontario

"This is welcome news that will help improve care in our communities. Having the right supports available for clients that have difficult behaviours will improve our ability to support them to stay at home longer, transition to a nursing home, and avoid having to seek hospital care. This is better for the clients and their families, and also better for frontline healthcare workers that sometimes struggle without access to this type of care."

– Brad Keeler, Acting CEO, ESC LHIN

ONTARIO QUICK FACTS

- 65% of long-term care home residents have dementia
- By 2020 the number of persons with dementia in Ontario will increase by 40% to 220,000
- 34% of Alternate Level of Care (ALC) bed days are occupied by people with dementia

ERIE ST. CLAIR LHIN QUICK FACTS

- \$2.41 million dollars invested locally will provide 12 nurses and 18 personal support workers to care for seniors with behaviors associated with their medical conditions

LEARN MORE

To learn more about the Behavioural Supports Ontario project, please visit www.bssproject.ca.
For further information related to this release, see attached background.



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