

Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant
LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK
RÉSEAU LOCAL D'INTÉGRATION DES SERVICES DE SANTÉ
de Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant

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Quality Care in Community Hands: The Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN Assumes Responsibilities for Local Health Planning and Decision-Making

GRIMSBY - The Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) celebrates a milestone today. As of April 1, the LHIN assumes greater responsibility for planning, integrating and funding local health services.

First announced in 2004, LHINs across Ontario will oversee nearly \$20 billion a year. Working with citizens and stakeholders, LHINs will determine the health care priorities and services in their communities.

Juanita Gledhill, Chair of the HNHB LHIN said that "in keeping with Ontario's vision for the health system the HNHB LHIN began by meeting and talking with stakeholders across our LHIN to begin the process of building a health care system that keeps people healthy, one which takes good care of them when they are sick, and is there for our children and grandchildren. We are committed to engaging residents in the LHIN and champions for change in the planning and delivery of health care".

The HNHB LHIN is responsible for allocating funds to community support services, community health centres, mental health and addiction services, the community care access centre, long-term care homes and hospitals. The goal of the LHIN is a health system that improves the patient experience in the health system, enables providers to best perform their jobs, and enhances outcomes. The Ministry retains responsibility for overall planning of the health system and a number of provincial programs including health human resources and public health.

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“We are well on our way” said Gledhill, “to an improved health system in our communities of Brant, Burlington, Haldimand, Hamilton, Niagara and Norfolk. Already, residents are telling us what is important to them and what needs to change. Providers are doing more than just getting to know one another; they are working with their partners and communities to develop and implement best practices that

- Make it easier for people to find and use services, and participate in their care plan
- Enhance timely access to services
- Ensure safe quality care from the right provider at the right time, and
- Deliver services in effective and efficient ways.”

“We are ready”, says Pat Mandy, CEO of the LHIN. “We have been working closely with the Ministry in preparation for our responsibilities and have recruited experienced and keen staff to support the work of the Board and engage our communities. We are excited to be able to support planning, coordination and funding close to home.”

Gledhill added, “The transfer of health planning and decision-making to people who know their communities best is a tremendous opportunity, and one that the Board is very proud to be part of. We are confident that 10-15 years from now, people will look back and say – yes, what a difference citizens, stakeholders and providers in the LHIN have made in health care”.

The Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN is one of 14 local health integration networks and is responsible for planning, coordinating and funding the local health system in this region which spans from Burlington to Fort Erie and from Burford to Cayuga and includes more than 1.3 million residents. The LHIN represents local decision-making; decisions about the organization, coordination and funding of health services will be made closer to home by people who live and work in the LHIN. The health services include community support services, mental health and addictions services, community health centres, the Community Care Access Centre, long-term care homes and hospital services.

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