

May 19, 2009

## **TORONTO CENTRAL LHIN INVESTING IN MORE CARE FOR SENIORS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network is receiving more than \$26 million to ensure more seniors can continue to live independently and to allow hospital patients to receive appropriate care in the right setting. The announcement was made at the WoodGreen Community Services, an organization that provides critical social services to more than 37,000 people in Toronto.

As part of the successful Aging at Home program, the Toronto Central LHIN is receiving a total of \$15.4 million this year – an increase of \$9.2 million over 2008/09 - to help seniors receive needed health services in the comfort and dignity of their own homes and communities, instead of in hospital. The Aging at Home program combines traditional health services – such as home care and supportive housing – with new, locally-driven, innovative approaches to caring for seniors.

The Toronto Central LHIN is also receiving:

- \$5,196,700 for increased home care, personal support and homemaking services provided by Community Care Access Centres;
- \$5,645,000 to invest in local solutions that will address ALC pressures;
- \$250,000 for nurse-led outreach teams to provide more care to patients in long-term care homes and help them avoid transfers to the hospital ER.

ALC patients are individuals in hospital beds who would be better cared for in alternate setting, such as long-term care, rehab, or home. Having more home care and community services enables ALC patients to leave hospital sooner, making more beds available to ER patients.

### **QUOTES**

“The Toronto Central LHIN’s Aging at Home Strategy responds to the unique health and social challenges faced by seniors. These innovative projects are giving local seniors access to the supports and services they need to live healthier in their own communities,” said Matt Anderson, CEO, Toronto Central LHIN.

“WoodGreen Community Services provides a wide range of critical services to seniors from across the city. The funding announced today will ensure that we are able to reach even more seniors who may be frail, marginalized and in need of supports,” Jane Piccolotto, Director, Community Care and Wellness for Seniors, WoodGreen Community Services.

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## QUICK FACTS

- The Ontario government is investing \$1.1 billion over four years in the Aging at Home Strategy.
- It is estimated that Ontario's senior population will double over the next 16 years.
- The Ontario Hospital Association indicates that hospital patients who are awaiting access to appropriate care elsewhere occupy almost 19 per cent of hospital beds in the province.

Backgrounder available at [www.torontocentrallhin.on.ca](http://www.torontocentrallhin.on.ca)

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