



**Lou Rinaldi, M.P.P.**

Northumberland-Quinte West

For Immediate Release

March 9, 2015

**Providing Faster Access to Home Care in Northumberland-Quinte West**

Ontario Putting Patients First by Investing in Better Home and Community Care

Ontario is helping more people in Northumberland-Quinte West receive faster access to quality home and community care by reducing wait times and continuing to support personal support workers (PSWs).

The province is investing \$8,735,100 in the Central East LHIN and \$3,756,400 in the South East LHIN this year in to help more patients in Northumberland and Quinte West receive care at home within Ontario's five-day wait time target, which is now publicly reported on the [Ontario Wait Times website](#). This is part of a \$75 million provincial investment that will support more visits at home for people who need nursing services. This investment will also support more hours of care for people who have complex care needs and require in-home personal support services like dressing, bathing and help taking medication.

Local community organizations receiving funding in support of the five-day wait time target include:

- Central East Community Care Access Centre
- South East Community Care Access Centre

Progress has already been made to reduce wait times for home care:

- 93 per cent of eligible patients receive their first nursing visit within five days of being approved.
- 84 per cent receive a visit from a personal support worker within the five-day wait time target.

To build on this progress, Ontario is also investing up to \$9.7 million this year to train PSWs in the home and community support sector. This funding will help PSWs access additional training to care for people living with specific conditions like dementia, and offer direct care workers the opportunity to receive training towards a PSW certificate.

Connecting Ontarians quickly to health care at home is part of the government's [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#). It is also part of the government's four-part plan to build Ontario up by investing in people's talents and skills, building new public infrastructure like roads and transit, creating a dynamic, supportive environment where business thrives, and building a secure savings plan so everyone can afford to retire.

**QUOTES**

"We know that patients want to receive the best quality care in the comfort of their homes for as long as possible. I'm proud of the results we've achieved in meeting our five-day wait time target, but we know there's still more work to do. Today's investment will help us deliver on that commitment. Our Patients First Action Plan for Health Care is improving the health care experience by connecting Ontarians with the care they need to stay at home as long as possible."

— Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

"Patients want to be looked after in the comfort of the surroundings of their homes. This reduces stress on the patients and family members. These funds will help ensure home care is quicker and more responsive to the needs of the patients being served. As a Government we continue to demonstrate that Home Care in Ontario is a top priority."

— Lou Rinaldi, M.P.P., Northumberland-Quinte West

“Ensuring that local residents have the health services and supports they need to spend more time in their homes and their communities has been the focus of the Central East LHIN as we have worked with health service providers on the implementation of our current Integrated Health Service Plan. With this investment, the Central East Community Care Access Centre and its partners will continue to provide local residents with faster access to personal support services and in home nursing services so that hospital patients can be safely discharged home and frail seniors in the community can be better supported to live in their own homes.”

— Deborah Hammons, Chief Executive Officer, Central East LHIN

“We know that residents in the South East LHIN want to be able to receive care in their community and in their homes. With this investment the South East Community Care Access Centre and its partners will be able to provide faster access to the type of care our patients, particularly our most vulnerable and complex, want and need.”

- Paul Huras, SE LHIN CEO

“Getting help at home is really important for me because it lets me be independent and stay in my own apartment. My family doesn’t have to worry because help is there when I need it. That’s why seniors like me shouldn’t be too proud to ask for assistance when needed. They should try to find out all they can about the home care options available to them.”

— Lucy Clarke, 86 year-old home care recipient

“When we brought our daughter home from hospital on a ventilator, we really couldn’t have done it without the support of the Community Care Access Centre and our nurse and PSW. The nurse came to see us the same day and our PSW and Care Coordinator came the next day. Without their support, care and guidance, I am not sure we would have been able to get Joanna out of hospital. Home is where she wants to be, it’s where she is healing better and it is easier on our whole family. We can’t do it though without timely access to those who support us. Without them we’d be back in hospital.”

— Ian Sheppard, father of home care recipient

## QUICK FACTS

- In 2014-15, the government invested an additional \$270 million in the home and community care sector.
- Community Care Access Centres deliver home care services to more than 650,000 people including seniors.
- For more information on home and community services available to you or someone you care for, contact your local [Community Care Access Centre](#) or call 310-CCAC.

## LEARN MORE

- [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#)
- [Strengthening Home and Community Care](#)
- [Home Care Wait Times in Ontario](#)
- [Finding Home Care in Ontario](#)
- [Central East LHIN](#)