

## News Release/Pour publication immédiate

### Local Health Integration Networks launch groundbreaking project

#### *\$40 million invested in health human resources to support seniors with complex mental health needs*

August 29, 2011 - The South East Local Health Integration Network is investing \$2.42 million to enhance services for seniors who exhibit behaviours associated with complex and challenging mental health, dementia or other neurological conditions. As part of a \$40 million provincial investment through all 14 LHINs across Ontario, this support will allow local health service providers in the south east to hire new staff – nurses, personal support workers and other health care providers – and train them in the specialized skills necessary to provide care that will enable these patients to live with dignity and respect.

The investment 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 given the tools they need to care for seniors with complex mental health needs.

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

#### 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**

"This is an exciting day for all 14 LHINs. Residents' needs and geography challenges differ from one end of the province to the other. We're going to implement local action plans that will take into account these differences, adapting so that residents in the 14 different regions of the province receive the care they need, closer to home."

- **Bernie Blais, LHIN CEO Lead - BSO, North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network**

“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 initiative is an important development for the growing number of Ontarians who are at risk of developing, or who already have, complex health care challenges with associated mental health and behavior needs. In the South East, we have been given a leadership opportunity to help develop a best-practice, province-wide, framework that will ultimately change the way we deliver care to seniors. Through this investment, we will be able to build on the shared knowledge and experiences of many health care providers in our region.”

- **Dr. Ken LeClair, Co-Director, Centre for Studies in Aging and Health at Providence Care, and Professor, Division of Geriatric Psychiatry, Queen's University**

### 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

### SE LHIN QUICK FACTS

- In 2009, 36% of elderly hospital patients in the south east had a diagnosis of dementia, compared to 29% in 2008.
- The SE LHIN, as with other parts of Ontario, is experiencing a demographic shift, which includes an increasing population of seniors and individuals requiring health care due to aging.
- Thanks to partnerships between the SE LHIN, Providence Care, Queen's University and other local health care providers, the SE LHIN is well-positioned to develop an extensive Behavioural Support Services Network.
- As a teaching hospital, Providence Care's Geriatric Psychiatry program provides region-wide inpatient, outpatient and community outreach services for older persons with severe mental illness, cognitive impairment and behavioural disturbances. Providence Care is also a leader in long-term care and specialized geriatric medicine.

### LEARN MORE

To learn more about the Behavioural Supports Ontario project, please visit [www.bssproject.ca](http://www.bssproject.ca).  
For further information related to this release, see attached [backgrounder](#).

.../2

## Contacts:

Michael Alexander

Communications and Community Engagement Specialist, **South East LHIN**

Tel: 613-967-0196 ext. 2229

[Michael.alexander@lhins.on.ca](mailto:Michael.alexander@lhins.on.ca)

Rosanne Meandro

Chief Communications and Media Relations Officer, **Alzheimer Society of Ontario**

Tel: 416-847-8920

[rmeandro@alzheimeront.org](mailto:rmeandro@alzheimeront.org)

[www.alzheimerontario.org](http://www.alzheimerontario.org)

Andrew Morrison, **Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care**

Tel: 416-314-6197

[andrew.morrison@ontario.ca](mailto:andrew.morrison@ontario.ca)

Jenn Goodwin, Director of Communications, **Providence Care**

Tel: 613-548-5567 (ext 5668)

[goodwinj@providencecare.ca](mailto:goodwinj@providencecare.ca)