

NEWS RELEASE/POUR PUBLICATION IMMÉDIATE

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South East LHIN Expands Aging At Home Programs

McGuinty Government Helping More Seniors Get Health Care At Home

The South East LHIN is expanding the successful Aging at Home strategy. Ontario is providing the South East Local Health Integration Network with \$ **8,653,805** to ensure more seniors get health care at home or in the community.

As part of the successful Aging at Home strategy, the South East LHIN will use the funding for local programs that provide health services to seniors in the comfort and dignity of their own home. This permits Ontario seniors to lead healthy and independent lives while avoiding unnecessary visits to hospitals, which can ultimately reduce ER wait times.

Aging at Home program allows LHINs to provide health care services that are tailor-made to meet local seniors' needs. This year, the program includes community-based services such as:

- Seniors Managing Independent Living Easily (SMILE)
- Home First
- Home at Last

Investing in better local community supports will help improve Ontario's Alternate Level of Care (ALC) rate. ALC patients are individuals in hospital beds who would be better cared for in an alternate setting, such as long-term care, rehab, or home. By giving seniors the support they need to avoid hospitalization in the first place and helping those who do get admitted return home faster, access to health care will be improved for all Ontarians.

QUOTES

With this funding, we are reducing the time Ontarians spend in hospitals emergency rooms by ensuring more services are available to seniors at home and in their community. As our population ages, we are providing innovation solutions that are responsive to their needs and allow seniors to live in their own homes.”

- **Sherry Kennedy, COO, South East LHIN**

QUICK FACTS

- Assisting seniors to live independently at home helps to shorten wait times at hospitals and improve patient flow in emergency rooms.
- Ontario is investing \$330.6 million for Aging at Home programs this year.
- By 2017, for the first time, seniors will account for a larger share of population than children aged 0-14.