

News Release / Pour publication immédiate

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North West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) Announces Winner at Health Care Expo

NorWest Community Health Centres Wins Innovations in Health Care Award

THUNDER BAY – The North West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is thrilled to announce that NorWest Community Health Centres (CHC) won an award at the *Celebrating Innovations in Health Care Expo* in Toronto today.

Health and Long-Term Care Minister, George Smitherman presented the NorWest CHC with the award for its Mobile Unit, which won in the category *Meeting Community Needs Through Integrated Care*.

The NorWest CHC's Mobile Unit (van) travels to small rural communities in the Thunder Bay District to provide primary health care to residents who have limited access to care due to distance and a lack of service providers. A team consisting of a Nurse Practitioner, Foot Care Nurse and Community Health Worker travels on the Mobile Unit to provide primary care and health promotion services to communities, based on the community's needs.

Overall, 15 innovative health care projects from Northwestern Ontario were exhibited at the Health Care Expo.

QUOTE

"The NorWest CHC is very deserving of the Minister's Award," says Gwen DuBois-Wing, CEO of the North West LHIN. "Residents in Dorion, Kaministiquia, Murillo, Nolalu, O'Connor Township, Red Rock, Shebandowan and Upsala are getting the care they need in their own communities thanks to the Mobile Unit. It is making a real difference in improving people's access to health care in the Thunder Bay District."

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QUICK FACTS

- The *Celebrating Innovations in Health Care Expo* is hosted jointly by Ontario's 14 Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.
- The first Health Care Expo was held in 2006.
- This year's Expo has more than 300 exhibitors promoting their creative ideas to address important health care issues.
- There were over 400 applications in six categories for the 2008 Innovations in Health Care Awards.

FIND OUT MORE

Learn more about the winners and finalists for this year's Innovations in Health Care Awards at www.health.gov.on.ca/transformation/innovation/celebrating_innovations.html.

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The North West LHIN is responsible for planning, integrating and funding local health services – hospitals, long term care facilities, the community care access centre, community health centres, community support services and mental health and addictions agencies - in Northwestern Ontario.