



Date: September 20, 2021

Re: North Simcoe Ontario Health Team approved

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On September 18, the province announced the approval of eight new Ontario Health Teams (OHT), of which the North Simcoe OHT (NSOHT) was one. There are four formal alliance partners in the NSOHT - GBGH, Chigamik, the North Simcoe Family Health Team and Wendat Community Programs – which will serve patients in Midland, Penetanguishene, Tay Township, Tiny Township and Christian Island.

OHTs are part of a new approach to healthcare that brings together providers as one collaborative team. Working together, the NSOHT team aims to improve the patient experience and ease transitions between care providers, as well as have a shared patient record and one care plan for patients. With this latest approval announcement, the province now has 50 OHTs which will cover 92 per cent of the province's population once fully implemented.

In the early stages of implementation, the NSOHT will integrate care for our area's target population of complex and frail seniors. This group was selected based on the large population of seniors in North Simcoe. Once well-established, the NSOHT will expand the population it serves to encompass even more of our community.

The newly approved OHTs are receiving funding to support plan implementation. Next steps in the process include finalizing the NSOHT funding and working through the logistics of a digital system which will help us share information between partners.

Our organizations have a long history of working together to improve care for patients, well before officially uniting in this partnership. It has taken two years of planning and collaboration to reach this point and we are looking forward to the opportunity to coordinate programs that strengthen health system capacity by linking hospitals, primary care, home care and community services.

Regards,

Gail Hunt – President and CEO, GBGH

Jessica North – Interim Executive Director, Chigamik

Andrea Abbott-Kokosin – Executive Director, Wendat Community Programs

Andrew Shantz – Executive Director, North Simcoe Family Health Team