

Central West LHIN takes on increased responsibility

The Central West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) celebrated a critical milestone. April 1, LHINs assumed their full responsibilities of planning, funding and integrating local health services.

First announced by the government in 2004, LHINs are responsible for allocating funds to improve health services, reduce wait times and ensure better coordination between health providers.

"This marks an historic shift in the way health care services have been delivered in the past," said Mimi Lowi-Young, CEO, Central West LHIN. "We've been granted an exceptional opportunity as a LHIN and as health care providers serving our region to work collaboratively and transparently with community residents to ensure the services we are delivering are truly responsive to their needs."

LHINs oversee two-thirds of Ontario's health care budget – nearly \$20 billion a year and, working closely with citizens and health care partners, will determine the health care priorities and services required in their local communities.

"Our government is standing by its commitment to build a health care system around the needs of our communities and local patients," said Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman. "LHINs will make it easier for patients to access the different health services they need and to find their way through a complex health system. LHINs will break down the barriers that patients face and ensure

that local health care decisions are made with patients' needs in mind."

LHINs plan, integrate, coordinate and fund local health services including Community Care Access Centres (CCACs), community health centres, community support services, hospitals, long-term care homes, and mental health and addiction agencies within a specific geographic area. The ministry retains responsibility for overall planning of the health system and a number of provincial programs including health human resources and public health.

"It's important to note that as a LHIN, we are not going to be running health care services in our region," notes Lowi-Young. "What we are and will be doing is working together with these services to make sure that health care planning is done collaboratively, that opportunities for integrating health care services are realized, and that the services we are providing are the ones that best meet local residents' needs."

Building on the strengths of local health organizations, LHINs allow for better matching of health care resources to community needs.

Patients in the Central West LHIN can expect to see a real improvement in health care. Specifically patients will:

- * Benefit from different

health providers working together to care for them.

* Experience fewer delays and disruptions, and shorter wait times in their health care services.

* Receive better, safer care from the health professionals that are best suited to provide that care.

* Receive better information about health services in their community, and have the ability to compare their wait times with other LHINs.

* Experience a health system that works better because there is less waste and duplication.

"LHINs are changing the way our health care system is managed," said Smitherman. "They will, for the first time, engage local residents in the planning and delivering of health care, to create even better access to quality care and reduce wait times."



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ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1
GTA West Corridor - Environmental Assessment (EA) Terms of Reference

THE STUDY
The Ontario Ministry of Transportation is working to provide for the efficient movement of people and goods within the context of the province's *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*. To support the policy directions in the *Growth Plan*, MTO has commenced the formal environmental assessment (EA) process for the GTA West Corridor. The purpose of this study is to examine long-term transportation problems and opportunities and consider alternative solutions to provide better linkages between *Urban Growth Centres* within the GTA West Corridor.

THE PROCESS
This study is being undertaken as an Individual EA in accordance with the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. The first step of the process requires that a Terms of Reference (ToR) be prepared and submitted to the Minister of the Environment for approval. The ToR outlines how the EA study will be undertaken. **A draft Terms of Reference is now available for review on the GTA West website (www.gta-west.com) and at local libraries.** Interested persons are encouraged to review and comment on the draft ToR by **May 18, 2007**.

Once comments are received, the ToR will be revised and submitted to the Minister of the Environment for an approval decision. As part of the legislated approval process, the Minister of the Environment will initiate a formal public review of the ToR to assist in making an approval decision. During this formal review process, there will be a second opportunity to comment on the ToR.

Review Locations of the Draft Terms of Reference:


<p>Vaughan Public Library Kleinburg Branch 10341 Islington Avenue N.</p> <p>Vaughan Public Library Pierre Berton Resource Branch 4921 Rutherford Rd.</p> <p>King Township Public Library King City Branch 1970 King Rd.</p> <p>King Township Public Library Nobleton Branch 8 Sheardown Dr.</p>	<p>Caledon Public Library Caledon East Branch 6500 Old Church Rd.</p> <p>Brampton Public Library Chinguacousy Branch 150 Central Park Dr.</p> <p>Brampton Public Library Cyril Clark Branch 20 Loafers Lake Lane</p> <p>Mississauga Public Library Meadowvale Branch 6677 Meadowvale Circle</p>	<p>Halton Hills Public Library Georgetown Branch 9 Church St.</p> <p>Halton Hills Public Library Action Branch 17 River St.</p> <p>Milton Public Library 45 Bruce St.</p> <p>Wellington County Public Library Puslinch Branch 29 Wellington Rd.</p>	<p>Wellington County Public Library Marden Branch 7368 Wellington Rd.</p> <p>Wellington County Public Library Rockwood Branch 85 Christie St.</p> <p>Wellington County Public Library Erin Branch 14 Boland Dr.</p> <p>Guelph Public Library Main Branch 100 Norfolk St.</p>
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PUBLIC CONSULTATION
The first round of Public Information Centres (PICs) has been arranged to allow the public an opportunity to review and comment on the draft ToR. The PICs will be conducted as a drop-in format with members of the Project Team available to discuss the study and to respond to questions.

<p>Monday, April 16, 2007 Holiday Inn Select Brampton Caledon Room 30 Peel Centre Drive Brampton, ON 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Wednesday, April 18, 2007 Le Jardin Special Events Centre Venetian Room 8440 Highway 27 Woodbridge, ON 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Monday, April 23, 2007 River Run Centre Canada Company Hall 35 Woolwich Street Guelph, ON 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Tuesday, April 24, 2007 Cultural Centre Gallery 9 Church Street Georgetown, ON 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</p>
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COMMENTS
Comments and information regarding this project will be collected to assist the Project Team. This material will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. Comment forms and study information are available on the project website: **www.gta-west.com**. Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. For further information, or to be added to the mailing list, please visit the project website or contact:

<p>Mr. Jin Wang, Project Co-ordinator Ontario Ministry of Transportation Provincial and Environmental Planning Office 301 St. Paul Street, 2nd Floor St. Catharines, ON L2R 7R4 Phone: 905-704-2117, Fax: 905-704-2007 E-mail: project_team@gta-west.com</p>	<p>Mr. Neil Ahmed, P. Eng., Consultant Project Manager McCormick Rankin Corporation 2655 North Sheridan Way, Suite 300 Mississauga, ON L5K 2P8 Toll-free: 1-877-562-7947 Phone: 905-823-8500, Fax: 905-823-8503 E-mail: project_team@gta-west.com</p>
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Please visit our website at: www.gta-west.com