

Mississauga/Halton LHIN assumes additional duties

Chair says organization is ready and able to take on more responsibility

The Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) celebrated an important milestone last Friday in that it's now taking on full responsibility of the area's health-care system.

The LHIN is assuming additional duties to plan, co-ordinate, integrate, fund and monitor local health services.

"The Mississauga Halton LHIN has grown from a fledgling start-up organization to a strong Local Health Integration Network ready, willing and able to assume its full responsibilities," said John Magill, chair of the Mississauga Halton LHIN.

"I'm very proud to be a part of this process. I think it's one that people are going to be able to look back on in years to come and say, 'Yeah, they got it right — and patients are better for it.'"

Patients in the Mississauga Halton LHIN can now expect to:

- 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.

"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 across the province

will 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.

The networks will fund and co-ordinate services between hospitals, long-term care homes, Community Care Access Centres, community support service agencies, mental health and addiction agencies, divested psychiatric hospitals and community health centres.

The ministry retains responsibility for overall planning of the health system and a number of provincial programs including health human resources and public health.

"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."

The Mississauga Halton LHIN is one of fourteen LHIN organizations created across Ontario by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

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