

Read Jimmy's story...

After moving from a reserve in Nova Scotia and living on his own in Newmarket for many years, 65-year-old Jimmy Singer found companionship and a renewed sense of hope through the Traditional Supports for Seniors of Aboriginal Descent program.

The program honours and supports seniors of Aboriginal descent with mental health and addictions issues who are living on their own in York Region.

"The program gives me a chance to chat, tell jokes and feel like I am still alive and can be a part of this community," said Jimmy. "I feel like I have something to offer and can teach what I know."

Enhancing Aboriginal health services in Central LHIN

Central LHIN has funded two initiatives through our Aging at Home strategy that provide services to elders within the Aboriginal community:

Georgina Island Support for Independent Living aims to improve the quality of life for elders living on Georgina Island who require transportation for a variety of reasons – such as to and from medical appointments or grocery shopping – and who cannot afford private transportation when no public transportation is available.

Traditional Supports for Seniors of Aboriginal Descent provides access to traditional ceremonies, medicines, healing circles and seasonal feasts. The intergenerational program also involves knowledge transfer from Aboriginal seniors to youth in relation to traditional crafts, cooking, drumming, singing, story-telling, and in-home support from Aboriginal youth to seniors.

Our Mandate

Central LHIN is one of 14 LHINs established through the *Local Health System Integration Act 2006*, by the Ontario government to plan, coordinate, integrate and fund a range of health services at the local level.

Our goal is to improve the health care system: to make it better for all of us who work, live and receive health services in our LHIN.

We will focus on understanding the health care needs of our Aboriginal populations through targeted engagement activities and promoting culturally appropriate programs and services.

Our Vision, Mission and Core Values

Central LHIN's vision, mission and core values serve to guide us as we work towards a health system that reflects and meets the needs of the people in our LHIN.

Our Vision

- Caring Communities, Healthier People and Health System Sustainability

Our Mission

- Enable Access to an Integrated Health System for our Communities

Our Values

- Collaboration and Partnerships
- System Responsiveness and Quality
- People and Community Focused
- Openness and Transparency

Enhancing Aboriginal health services in our LHIN





Connecting with our Aboriginal population

According to the 2006 Census, the Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is home to approximately 6000 Aboriginal people, including the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, and others who live off-reserve.

Central LHIN is committed to developing relationships with our Aboriginal residents to learn more about their unique health care needs and challenges, and to work together towards building a more equitable health system.

Our Aboriginal community is also the focus of targeted investments and activities under our Aging at Home strategy and the health equity priority of our new *Integrated Health Service Plan 2010-2013*.

Key Aboriginal engagement activities

Some key Aboriginal engagement activities our LHIN has undertaken include:

Strengthening the Circle Workshops

Greater Toronto Area LHINs and the Aboriginal community have come together on two occasions to network and discuss relationship building and future engagement approaches, and to increase the knowledge of Aboriginal health in urban environments.

Dialogue and Collaboration: Keys to Effective Aboriginal Patient Care

Central LHIN hosted a workshop for health service providers and representatives from the Aboriginal community to discuss Aboriginal health issues. This was the first time both health service providers and the Aboriginal community met to develop recommendations to improve Aboriginal health services, which have been aligned with our strategic plans.

Central LHIN plans to continue to work with its health service providers to enhance Aboriginal engagement strategies that improve relationships and encourage collaboration across our health sectors.



Finding out more about how Central LHIN is working to improve health care in our local communities is just a click away at www.centrallhin.on.ca

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