



LHINformation

Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network

For Immediate Release
Friday, February 29, 2008

Waterloo Wellington LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK (WWLHIN) Approves More Than \$20 Million For Aging At Home Initiatives

The Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (WWLHIN) Board of Directors has approved \$20,160,886, over three years, to fund over 20 initiatives that support its Aging At Home strategy.

In August, 2007, the WWLHIN was allocated \$37 million from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Aging At Home provincial initiative (province wide, \$700 million over three years is being invested in the initiative).

The WWLHIN's Aging At Home strategy is to provide a suite of services for seniors to enable them to live as independently as possible, for as long as possible, in a safe home of their choice.

A 'Request for Ideas' process was launched in late 2007 and since that time the WWLHIN has been working with participating local organizations to develop detailed business plans that support the goals of the Aging At Home strategy. A portfolio of 20 projects was presented to the WWLHIN Board of Directors at their monthly meeting on Thursday, February 28 for review and approval.

"I want to commend, and congratulate the organizations that put forth these creative and innovative proposals for much-needed programs for seniors in our community," said Kathy Durst, Chair of the WWLHIN board. "The submissions the board approved introduce new services to seniors or enhance services already being provided. We are feeling very confident about the difference these programs will make for seniors in our community," continued Durst.

The programs fall into three categories: services for seniors who are frail or have complex health concerns, supportive housing services, and seniors' health and welfare services. In addition, funding is being allocated for information infrastructure, a physician lead in geriatric medicine and ongoing planning.

"This initial \$20 million investment is a strong start to providing supports for seniors. The initiatives cover a wide range of programs such as telehomecare monitoring, emergency room assistance, in-home primary care, assistance to seniors with dementia, adult day services, stroke peer support, more access to care and housing for those at risk of homelessness, assistance for seniors to access health services, education programs to support healthy lifestyles and much more," said Sandra Hanmer, CEO of the WWLHIN.

"This is just the beginning," continued Hanmer. "The Aging At Home strategy has about \$17 million dollars still to be invested over the next three years and we will continue to look at innovative, imaginative services to address seniors' needs in our communities."

More information about the Aging At Home can be found at www.wwlhin.on.ca or by contacting the WWLHIN office at 519 822 6208.

-30-

For more information or to arrange an interview contact
Lynda Gardner, Media Liaison
519 822 6208 ext 214 or
lyndagardner@gto.net

Note: More information about the Aging At Home projects can be viewed on the www.wwlhin.on.ca website beginning Monday, March 3, 2008.

Waterloo Wellington LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK
55 Wyndham St. N, Suite 212, Guelph, ON, N1H 7T8
T 519 822 6208 Toll Free 1 866 306 5446 Fax 519 822 5807 www.wwlhin.on.ca

