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## News Release

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### 2017 North West LHIN Leadership Award Recipients Announced

*Health care leaders from across the region honoured at North West LHIN Open House*

**Thunder Bay, December 11, 2017** - The North West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) Board of Directors presented the third annual North West LHIN Leadership Award on Monday. These proceedings acknowledge outstanding transformation, partnerships and leadership excellence across Northwestern Ontario's health care system.

Earlier this year, North West LHIN-funded health service providers were invited to nominate individuals, teams, and organizations from across the region for the Leadership Award, which is presented at the annual Open House event. This year, the Board received a record number of applicants, with four successful Leadership Award recipients.

Gil Labine, Board Chair, North West LHIN, was on hand to announce this year's recipients in the categories of Collaboration/Partnership, Stakeholder Engagement and Individual Distinguished Contribution:

**Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC), Regional Orthopaedic Program** was nominated for their exceptional approach to collaboration/partnership. The award recognizes the program's innovative model of health care delivery achieved through Regional Integration and Advanced Technology. At the heart of the Regional Orthopedic Program is a digital health system designed with a centralized referral system that connects primary care providers and other referrers with the Regional Orthopedic Program through one point of access. The program improves access to specialty care, provides closer-to-home care for patients, reduces wait times and cost to the system and improves health outcomes. As a result, the improved access to care reduces patient travel for surgery, follow-up visits and rehab. All of these services can be accessed closer to home.

**Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, Regional Critical Care Response Program** was also nominated for their exceptional approach to collaboration/partnership. The program provides real time access to current, evidence-based critical care services using an inter-professional care team approach via telemedicine.

Within the first year, Regional Critical Care Response Program provided 107 video consults. This enabled 29 patients to remain in their community hospitals and reduced air transport costs and enhanced patients' choices. As of April 2017, 163 air transports have been averted resulting in over \$3M in savings. Using telemedicine, the program supports 12 rural hospitals and 4 nursing stations by enabling specific patients to be maintained within their communities.

**St. Joseph's Care Group, North West Regional Palliative Care Program** was nominated for their exceptional approach to stakeholder engagement. Since 2015, the Regional Palliative Care Program (RPCP) has been creating an integrated system of palliative care. The RPCP has prioritized engagement with First Nations communities and the organizations that support them in delivering care to their members. The RPCP aims to respond to the needs of not only the individual but their family, friends, and caregivers and includes a full continuum of care available from initial diagnosis to the period of bereavement. RPCP identified local champions to lead community palliative care programs in all five LHIN Sub-regions, signed formal partnership agreements with community palliative care teams in 9 Local Health Hubs across the region, and established a community of practice for local palliative care champions.

**Wade Petranik, CEO of Dryden Regional Health Centre** was nominated for the Distinguished Contribution Award. Wade has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to the health system over the past 20 years. He was instrumental in the establishment of a Family Health Team under the Governance of the Dryden Regional Health Centre.

He was able to bring community, corporate and health governance leaders together as a community health care committee that facilitated the purchase of the medical clinic building. This lowered overhead for practicing physicians and supported the recruitment of new physicians to the community of Dryden to improve access to care for patients. He established a physician recruiter position within the hospital, ensuring the continued availability of medical practitioners. With Wade's leadership, hip and knee surgeries began in the Kenora and Rainy River areas, reducing travel for patients. These, among many other honourable achievements, make Wade Petranik the Leadership Award winner for Distinguished Contribution.

#### **Honourable Mentions:**

**Alpha Court's Access Point North West** was nominated for their commendable approach to Collaboration/Partnership. Access Point Northwest offers a simplified, online outpatient referral process, replacing an existing paper-based system of referral and ensuring entry into service is accessible, timely and equitable.

**North of Superior Healthcare Group, the Township of Marathon & the Project Team's Senior Supportive Housing Project** were nominated for both their commendable approach to Collaboration/Partnership, as well as their commendable approach to Stakeholder Engagement. The Senior's Supportive Housing Project Team consists of a diverse membership from the community which has allowed for collaboration among stakeholder to address gaps in senior

housing in Marathon. The Project Team has successfully forged partnerships, led several community and stakeholder engagement meetings, secured donations for funding, and begun ground breaking a new Housing Unit facility.

### **Quotes**

"The North West LHIN Board of Directors takes great pride in highlighting the exemplary leaders in our region who are improving health care delivery, integration and innovation for the benefit of Northwestern Ontarians. I couldn't be more pleased to congratulate this year's Leadership Award recipients."

- **Gil Labine, Board Chair, North West Local Health Integration Network**

"The Regional Orthopaedic Program represents years of relationship building and a change away from the culture of models of patient care that operate disparately, or in silos as it were. Recognizing TBRHSC's Regional Orthopaedic Program with this Leadership award would validate all of the stakeholders who partnered and collaborated in making the selfless critical changes in thinking to yield a truly integrated Regional program geared to making patients first. The award would also represent a navigation beacon for all other medical sub specialities to follow. TBRHSC is honoured to be recognized for their leadership in pioneering these changes."

- **Caroline Fanti, Director, Regional Orthopaedic Program**

"RCCR promotes a culture of patient safety and responsiveness, acute care education, and sharing of best practices. Most importantly, it results in better outcomes for our patients and families through earlier access to specialized treatments, shorter transfer times, and potentially eliminating the need to transfer a patient at all, resulting in exceptional care closer to home. We are grateful that this critical program is being recognized through the North West LHIN Leadership Award."

- **Dr. Michael Scott, Chief of Critical Care, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre**

"The focus of the Regional Palliative Care Program has been on developing relationships with the region and First Nations service providers to better understand the issues faced by them. Winning the North West LHIN Leadership Award is not just for the Regional Palliative Care Program, but for all of the communities who have worked collaboratively with the program in strengthening palliative care service delivery at the local level."

- **Jill Marcella, Co-Ordinator, Regional Palliative Care Program**

“Helping to make the health system work better for the people of our region, both now, and in the future, is a key accountability for all health service providers. These awards acknowledge the outstanding contributions and efforts of organizations in realizing this promise. I’m both proud and humbled to be nominated for such a prestigious award.”

- **Wade Petranik, Chief Executive Officer, Dryden Regional Health Centre**

#### **QUICK FACTS:**

- The North West LHIN Leadership Award was introduced in 2015 by the North West LHIN Board of Directors as part of the organization’s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, commemorating a decade of partnerships in service to the people of Northwestern Ontario.
- The Leadership Award is presented to a LHIN-funded individual, team, or organization for demonstrating leadership and contributions to health system transformation in Northwestern Ontario including collaborating with others to improve the health outcomes.
- The Leadership Award accepts nominations in the following categories:
  - Exceptional/Commendable Approach to Collaboration/Partnership
  - Exceptional/Commendable Stakeholder Engagement
  - Exceptional/Commendable Practice in Diversity
  - Exceptional/Commendable Practice in Value Creation
  - Distinguished Contribution Award

#### **LEARN MORE**

For more information on the North West LHIN and the North West LHIN Leadership Award, please visit our website: [www.northwestlhin.on.ca](http://www.northwestlhin.on.ca).

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