

Media Release

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NEW WEBSITE SERVES AS INFORMATION HUB FOR SENIORS' INITIATIVE

(Thunder Bay, ON June 27, 2008) With the launch of the new website www.ceisstbay.ca, finding answers to questions about the new Centre of Excellence for Integrated Seniors' Services (CEISS) in Thunder Bay just got a lot easier.

"Once completed, the new CEISS will provide seniors in Thunder Bay and the North West region with the health care services they require in the most appropriate setting," says Tracy Buckler, President & CEO, St. Joseph's Care Group and Co-Chair of the CEISS Steering Committee. "This website is one of the many tools the CEISS Steering Committee will use to help the public stay informed during each phase of this exciting project."

CEISS involves many health and government partners in the collaborative effort. The project evolved after the City of Thunder Bay decided to return 300 of its municipally run long-term care beds (located in Dawson Court and Grandview Lodge) to the Province of Ontario. As part of CEISS, support services will be increased and new buildings will be constructed over the next three years. New supportive housing apartments and long-term care beds will be operated by St. Joseph's Care Group at their Hogarth Riverview Manor site, with construction expected to be completed in 2011. All services and facilities will be tailored to seniors, from those living independently with mild or moderate support needs, to the frail elderly who will require 24-hour care.

The website at www.ceisstbay.ca features up-to-date information on what CEISS is and how it will benefit seniors in Northwestern Ontario. The site includes: step-by-step application procedures for the support services and facilities; a CEISS team "Who's Who"; event listings and a photo gallery that will follow the build from ground-breaking to opening day.

"The website will be the hub for information during the next three years," says Gwen Dubois-Wing, CEO, North West Local Health Integration Network, and CEISS Co-Chair. "For seniors living in their own homes, or for family members who live miles away, the website will provide timely information in an accessible format."

About CEISS

CEISS will roll out support services and facilities over the next three years including: community support services for an additional 120 clients; Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) services for an additional 30 clients; enhanced services for existing supportive housing units; 336 Long-Term Care beds, including 64 beds for specialized behavioural Long Term Care clients; and 132 new supportive housing units. For more information on CEISS, please visit www.ceisstbay.ca.

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Excellence for

Integrated Seniors' Services

