

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ST. JOSEPH'S CARE GROUP IS ENHANCING CLIENT SAFETY

(THUNDER BAY, ON, October 8, 2008) In recognition of Canadian Patient Safety Week, St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) hosted a leadership development day entitled "Enhancing Client Safety Across the Care Group: Moving Concepts into Action". The purpose of the day was to bring awareness to the importance of the leadership role in client safety. Leadership from all levels within a health care facility can positively influence the safety of care through, in part, developing and nurturing a culture of safety.

Keynote speaker, Phillip Hassen, CEO of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, is committed to making effective change in patient safety so Canadians have the safest care possible. Hassen states "Leaders at all levels have an important role in supporting and gently shifting the culture to one that is constantly looking for ways to improve our systems and make health care safer. The blame and shame game does not work, but system change does."

Other guest speakers included Katarina Stanisic, Patient Safety Officer, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute and a Patient Safety Champion with the World Alliance for Patient Safety; Kathryn Frelick, Lawyer, Miller Thomson; and, Hugh Walker, Spiritual Care Clinical Leader/Consultant, St. Joseph's Care Group.

Tracy Buckler, President and CEO, St. Joseph's Care Group, is committed to a proactive approach to client safety and says "By nurturing a culture that promotes safety from within, we can improve the safety of the care we provide. When we work together in an environment that includes our Core Value of 'Truthfulness and Trust' with our staff and clients, we can make effective changes in client safety."

St. Joseph's Care Group's commitment to building a culture of safety doesn't stop at this one day educational seminar. There are numerous initiatives throughout the Care Group devoted to improving the quality and safety of care that is provided to the residents of Northwestern Ontario. These initiatives and continued interdisciplinary teamwork and research provide the groundwork that is necessary to constantly question and improve the systems and processes and to continue to evolve as a leader in health care.

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**St. Joseph's Hospital • St. Joseph's Heritage • Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital • Hogarth Riverview Manor • Balmoral Centre  
 St. Joseph's Health Centre • Behavioural Sciences Centre • Diabetes Health Thunder Bay • Sister Margaret Smith Centre**

*St. Joseph's Care Group is accredited with Accreditation Canada and provides services in complex care, rehabilitation, mental health and addictions, long-term care and supportive housing. Community programs are provided at Frank Murphy Community Centre.*

*St. Joseph's Care Group has approximately 1700 employees and over 400 volunteers. With an annual operating budget of \$125M, SJCG is the fifth largest employer in Thunder Bay. To learn more about SJCG, visit the web site at [www.sjcg.net](http://www.sjcg.net)*