



MEDIA RELEASE

Four organizations come together to launch new outpatient referral service

WHAT: Media conference launching Access Point Northwest

WHO: With resources and implementation support provided by the Provincial System Support Program at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), the following partners have come together: Alpha Court, Canadian Mental Health Association Thunder Bay, St. Joseph's Care Group, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

WHERE: Mariners Hall, Thunder Bay Marina

WHEN: 10:30am, September 19, 2017

THUNDER BAY, September 19, 2017 – Several organizations have joined forces to offer a single point of contact called Access Point Northwest, dedicated to helping people find the services they need.

Access Point Northwest simplifies the outpatient referral process for clients and primary care providers in Northwestern Ontario. It is for people and health care providers to access programs specifically in outpatient mental health, supportive housing, case management, and chronic pain management.

With resources and implementation support provided by the Provincial System Support Program at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), Access Point Northwest is a collaborative effort between Alpha Court, the Canadian Mental Health Association of Thunder Bay, St. Joseph's Care Group and Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

Clients and care providers can access the new service both online and by phone.
northwestaccesspoint.ca | (807) 624-3482

“Northwest Access Point will ensure entry into service is accessible, timely, and equitable. Coordinated access provides people with a clear pathway to care and is designed to match identified need with the appropriate level of service. Northwest Access Point is also a promising source of data to assess trends in the need for and provision of mental health services.”

Nicole Latour, Executive Director of Alpha Court

“Access Point Northwest is the first of its kind to support the out patient referral process for clients and primary care providers in the northwest. This shared model has been successfully implemented by CMHA branches in other areas in Ontario, and we look forward to reaping similar benefits to access and care.”

Sharon Pitawanakwat, Chief Executive Officer, CMHA Thunder Bay

“Our health care system can be complex and difficult to navigate. Access Point Northwest is a single point of contact that allows clients or referents to connect with four organizations at once. Information about outpatient mental health, supportive housing, case management and chronic pain management can be readily obtained, leading to quicker access to care and better health outcomes. We are proud to be a partner in this collaboration.”

Tracy Buckler, President & CEO, St. Joseph’s Care Group

“Access Point Northwest removes guesswork and ensures patients access the right care at the right time. This collaboration is one way we are improving experiences for patients.”

**Jean Bartkowiak, President & CEO, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre
and CEO, Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute**

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ABOUT US:

Alpha Court

The mission of Alpha Court is to provide individualized, recovery-orientated support and housing for people who experience mental health or addiction challenges in Thunder Bay. Alpha Court believes all people who experience mental health or addiction challenges can reach their full potential.

www.alphacourt.ca | (807) 683-8200



Canadian Mental Health Association of Thunder Bay

CMHA Thunder Bay service delivery is based on the philosophy of Recovery. CMHA supports clients in a process of change whereby individuals work to improve their well-being, live a self-directed life, and strive to achieve their full potential.

www.thunderbay.cmha.ca | (807) 345-5564



St. Joseph’s Care Group

Combining tradition and innovation in responding to the unmet needs of the people of Northwestern Ontario, SJCG is here for our clients through programs and services in Addictions & Mental Health, Rehabilitative Care & Chronic Disease Management and Seniors’ Health delivered at 8 sites in Thunder Bay and across the region.

www.sjcg.net | (807) 343-2431



Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre

TBRHSCs mission is to deliver a quality patient experience in an academic health care environment that is responsive to the needs of the population of Northwestern Ontario. TBRHSC is a recognized leader in Patient and Family Centred Care with a world-class acute care facility with 375 beds serves the people of Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario.

www.tbrhsc.net | (807) 684-6010

