

NSM LHIN Board appoints Chief Executive Officer Bernie Blais, MPA, CHE, EMA

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ORILLIA, ON – Board Chair Ruben Rosen today announced the appointment of Bernie Blais as Chief Executive Officer of the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) effective March 1, 2009.

Bernie began his career in health care as a paramedic and has served in a number of senior roles across six of Canada's provinces and territories:

- CEO, Northern Lights Health Region in Northern Alberta
- Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Government of Nunavut
- CEO, Chatham-Kent Health Alliance in Southwestern Ontario
- CEO, Surrey Memorial Hospital, a 656 bed facility in British Columbia
- Senior Assistant Deputy Minister Health Reform, Manitoba Health
- CEO, Victoria General Hospital, Winnipeg

Bernie completed his Masters Degree in Public Administration with Distinction at the University of Manitoba. He is very passionate about leadership development and a strong advocate of lifelong learning.

Bernie is fluently bilingual and has strong Aboriginal roots with four First Nations grandchildren living in Winnipeg. His two other grandchildren live in Huntsville.

QUOTES

"We are pleased that Bernie will be joining us at this critical time in the development of the NSM LHIN. Significant change is underway and we believe his background and experience are well-suited for this leadership role. We are looking forward to working with Bernie in realizing the vision of our LHIN as part of the transformation of Ontario's health care system", said Ruben Rosen.

"My favourite quote is - *The best way to predict the future is to invent it* -", said Bernie. "Here in North Simcoe Muskoka we have our health care challenges, and I'm optimistic we will be able to meet the needs of our communities by working together to be innovative and collaborative in our solutions."

QUICK FACTS

As one of 14 LHINs across Ontario, the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN plans, integrates and funds local health services, including hospitals, community care access centres, community health centres, long-term care homes, mental health and addiction programs and a variety of community support services agencies. The LHINs oversee half of the \$40 billion health care budget in Ontario.

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For further information on the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN, visit www.nsmlhin.on.ca .