

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### South West Local Health Integration Network announces new Chief Executive Officer

NEWS

January 28 2009

**LONDON, ON** – Board Chair Norm Gamble today announced the appointment of Michael Barrett as Chief Executive Officer of the South West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

Michael had been acting CEO since August 2008 when the position became vacant. An extensive national search was conducted with the assistance of a recruitment firm, and that search yielded several candidates worthy of consideration. The recruitment task force was presented with applications from nine candidates and after an initial round of interviews with six, a short list of three candidates was invited to an interview with the entire Board of Directors.

In its selection process, the Task Force was continually guided by a profile which was developed with the input of peers, LHIN staff, provider partners, board members, and management consultants familiar with the South West LHIN.

Prior to becoming CEO, Michael had been the Senior Director, Performance, Contract and Allocation at the South West LHIN since January 2007. His previous experience in the health care sector is extensive, having held positions as Regional Leader and Business Manager at London Health Sciences Centre and St Josephs Health Care in London, and as Regional Manager of Planning and Support with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Michael is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario where he obtained his Master of Public Administration. As a life-long resident of London, Michael truly understands the South West LHIN, the challenges presented by our vast geography, and the need to ensure both our urban and rural populations have access to a quality health care system.

## QUOTES

“We were encouraged by the strong response to our call for applicants,” said Norm Gamble. “The caliber of the candidates interviewed was impressive and allowed the Board to select who we feel is the best of a highly qualified field of contenders.”

“The Board is confident that Michael is the right choice for this challenging position,” said Gamble. “He excelled in his role as Senior Director, and has proven himself to be a strong leader in the six months since he became the acting CEO.”

“I am looking forward to working collaboratively with all our health service providers to ensure that integration, coordination and service innovation become the hallmark of an accessible, equitable and sustainable health care system in the South West LHIN,” said Michael Barrett. “The South West LHIN staff is a highly qualified and dedicated group whose support I have appreciated during my tenure as acting CEO, and whose continued efforts will ensure the ongoing transformation of the South West health care system.”

## QUICK FACTS

Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) are a fundamental component of the government’s plan to build a stronger health care system in Ontario. Passed in March 2006, the Local Health System Integration Act is intended to create a health care system that keeps people healthy, cares for them when they are sick and will be there for their children and grandchildren.

The South West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is a crown agency responsible for the planning, integration and funding of more than 150 health service providers, including hospitals, long-term care homes, mental health and addictions agencies, community support services, community health centres, and the South West Community Care Access Centre. The South West LHIN covers an area from Lake Erie to the Bruce Peninsula and is home to almost one million people. For more information visit [www.southwestlhin.ca](http://www.southwestlhin.ca).

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