

For Immediate Release
April 10, 2006
2006/nr-020

MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES NEW LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK BOARD MEMBERS

New Board Members Will Strengthen Local Health Care Delivery

TORONTO – The McGuinty government has appointed 39 new board members to the province’s 14 Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman announced today.

“Patients across the province will be well served by these board members,” Smitherman said. “As leaders in their communities, they bring diverse experience and in-depth knowledge of local health care needs, which will be a tremendous asset to the LHINs as they work with health care providers, stakeholders and the public to plan health care services at the local level.”

LHINs are local health organizations which will plan, integrate and fund local health services – including hospitals, community care access centres, home care, long-term care, mental health, community health centres as well as addiction and community support services – for a specific geographic area.

“LHINs have been created because local health services are best planned at the local level, by people who know the needs of the community,” Smitherman said. “We have built up each of the LHINs further with the addition of more board members who will help to make sure that local needs are emphasized, barriers to accessing care are eliminated, and appropriate quality health care is delivered.”

“One of the key reasons that we created LHINs, was to provide a degree of stability and local accountability within our health care system,” said Smitherman. “On a provincial level, the government will continue to set strategic directions and standards for high quality, accessible health care across the province.”

The board chairs, founding board members and CEOs for the LHINs were announced last June. It is expected that the remaining board members will be named later this spring. Each board will have nine members.

Today’s initiative is part of the McGuinty government’s plan to build a health care system that delivers on three priorities – keeping Ontarians healthy, reducing wait times and providing better access to doctors and nurses.

David Spencer
Minister's Office
416-327-4320

John Letherby
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
416-314-6197

Members of the general public: 416-327-4327, or 1-800-268-1154

This news release, along with other media materials, such as matte stories and audio clips, on other subjects, are available on our website at: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca> under the News Media section.

For more information on achievements in health care, visit: www.resultsontario.gov.on.ca.

Disponible en français.