



## **SUPPORT FOR SENIORS RETAINS BEDS IN HOSPITAL**

LHIN working with Northumberland Hills Hospital to meet community needs

### **NEWS**

May 19, 2010

At its May 18<sup>th</sup> Open Board Meeting, the Board of the Central East LHIN passed a motion that will result in new restorative care beds at Northumberland Hills Hospital in Cobourg.

In addition, Northumberland Hills Hospital will retain its existing interim long term care beds as it continues to implement its Alternate Level of Care (ALC) Strategy and meet its legislated obligation to balance its budget.

These decisions were made after the LHIN put out a “call” at the end of March to identify organizations that could provide convalescent or restorative care beds across the region and interim long term care beds in Northumberland County.

With no immediate community option available in Northumberland, the LHIN decided to retain and enhance the beds at the hospital.

### **QUOTES**

“Through funding provided by the Ministry’s Aging at Home program, the LHIN is able to make these immediate investments in Northumberland,” said Foster Loucks, Chair, Central East LHIN Board of Directors. “This will allow the hospital to continue moving forward with their balanced budget plans.”

“Our goal is to work with the hospital to ensure that seniors are getting the care they need as they transition from a hospital setting to home,” said Deborah Hammons, CEO, Central East LHIN.

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### QUICK FACTS

- ALC or Alternate Level of Care is a designation used when patients have completed their acute care treatment, but remain in hospital, in an acute care bed, waiting for placement in community-based services.
- This can lead to increased wait times in the emergency department or delays in surgical procedures when physicians are not able to admit new patients into these beds.
- A Convalescent Care or Restorative Care bed provides specialized care focused on returning people to their highest level of independence and who require up to 90 days to recover their strength, endurance or functioning before returning home.
- Interim Long-Term Care beds are designed to help alleviate ALC pressures in communities with LTC bed shortages and ensure that hospital patients who are awaiting transfer to long-term care homes are cared for in a home-like environment that includes programming and services that are specifically designed to meet their needs.
- The LHIN will also be working with providers in Durham and Port Hope to create additional community capacity for these types of services.

### LEARN MORE

Download a copy of the [presentation made to the Board](#) at its May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting

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