



Community Paramedicine coming to Gore Bay and Gogama

For immediate Release – March 26, 2015

On October 14, 2014 the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care announced that Ontario is applying the training and skills of paramedics to improve care in the community for patients with chronic conditions, particularly seniors.

“Community based Paramedicine offers an excellent opportunity for our ambulance service to help improve the health outcomes of our northern residents,” stated Les Gamble, Chairman of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board. “Our highly skilled medical paramedics working for Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB will help people released from hospital in staying at home and maintaining their health. Working together, we can improve health outcomes for Northerners”.

The province invested \$6 million in the expansion and development of 30 community Paramedicine programs. These initiatives will support participating paramedics in working with other health care professionals to provide more care to patients in the community. Community Paramedicine programs will help seniors and other patients live independently longer, and reduce emergency room visits and hospital admissions.

“Community Paramedicine programs will help improve access to quality care for those who need it most. This initiative is about ensuring that those with higher needs are able to receive care in the home and in the community by a team of highly skilled health professionals, lightening the load on emergency rooms.” - Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

One of the 30 pilot sites to receive funding was Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB, in partnership with the District Social Service Administration Boards located in Cochrane and Algoma.

“I am happy to announce that the two pilot communities in Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB are Gore Bay and Gogama where we will be implementing Paramedic Home Visit programs,” said Michael Maclsaac, Chief of Emergency Medical Services. Home visits can be initiated by paramedics or through referrals from allied health care professionals for follow up.

“We are proud to announce that in addition to these specialized programs in Gogama and Gore Bay, all paramedics in all other stations will be participating in the community referrals program to Community Care Access Centre for patients requiring additional assistance to remain living in their homes,” Chief Maclsaac added.

For further information, contact Fern Dominelli, CAO at 705-862-7850 ext. 400.