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May 18, 2017

Mr. Jim Adams, Director, Housing Programs Branch  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs/Ministry of Housing  
Housing Division  
777 Bay Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5G 2E5

Dear Mr. Adams:

On behalf of the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN), we are in full support of the applications submitted by our eight area Service Managers to Home for Good – Expression of Interest. Staff from the NE LHIN have met with each of the District Social Services Administration Boards for the Algoma, Cochrane, City of Greater Sudbury, Manitoulin-Sudbury, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sault Ste. Marie, Timiskaming and the City of Greater Sudbury Service Managers and/or Chief Administrative Officer to discuss our continued partnership.

As a result of our collaboration the NE LHIN has committed to providing funding for .5 FTE and four rent supplements in each of the eight Service Manager areas. In return the eight Service Managers have agreed to match this funding through the Home For Good – Expression of Interest. This will enable us to leverage the LHIN funding and Ministry of Housing funding available through Home For Good.

This model has been piloted by the local NE LHIN, Sudbury Manitoulin DSSAB and the Canadian Mental Health Association to provide both housing and support to those in the town of Espanola. A year-end report will be submitted to the LHIN by May 31, 2017 this report will be provided to Ministry of Housing.

Results have been positive to date. In the short year that the pilot has been running, partners report that there has been an increased retention of tenants (less turnover), reduced episodes of hoarding and bed bugs and increased participation in employment/volunteering or related programs. Informed by research into best practices in supportive housing, as well as lessons learned across our region, we are

confident this model will have a significant, positive impact on both individual tenants and the broader community.

In line with Ontario's effort to end homelessness by 2025, these collaborative and innovative proposals will provide much needed additional mental health, addictions and housing support services in Northeastern Ontario, and will assist individuals who are, or are at risk of being, homeless.

In the North East there is a shortage of appropriate housing stock and the population of seniors and persons with low income is higher than the provincial average. There is also a high number of other vulnerable populations, such as those who are living with mental health and addictions problems, where access to affordable and supportive housing has been a challenge. Our region contains numerous small rural communities and few options for people who wish to live on their own.

The relationship between housing and health is well known, but the provincial health and housing systems don't always work well together to achieve successful outcomes. The NE LHIN is very pleased to see that the Ministry of Housing is committing programs funding and support for Service Managers to work in partnership with other social service and health agencies, to try to reduce this current dilemma.

At the NE LHIN, one of the geographically largest LHINs in Ontario, we've worked hard to improve this dynamic by consulting health and housing stakeholders, the community sector and northerners. With this engagement, we developed the *Innovative Housing with Health Supports in Northeastern Ontario Strategic Plan: 2016-2019*, which was released in 2016. This strategy identifies 43 recommendations to close this housing gap, and the Homes for Good program is well aligned to help us achieve many of these goals.

We strongly support the eight Service Manager expressions of interest that have been submitted to the Home for Good program, which will strengthen the community of care for all Northerners. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with Sherry Frizzell, Director, Home and Community Care [sherry.frizzell@lhins.on.ca](mailto:sherry.frizzell@lhins.on.ca) or 705-673-4873 should you have any further questions.

Regards,



Louise Paquette  
Chief Executive Officer, NE LHIN

cc. Algoma District Services Administration Board, Keith Bell, CAO  
District of Cochrane Services Administration Board, Brian Marks, CAO  
City of Greater Sudbury, Catherine Matheson, General Manager, Community Development  
Manitoulin Sudbury District Services Administration Board, Fern Dominelli, CAO  
District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board, Joseph Bradbury, CAO  
District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board, Janet Patterson, CAO  
District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board, Mike Nadeau, CAO  
District of Temiskaming Social Services Administration Board, Don Studholme. CAO  
Jane Sager, Director LHIN Liaison Branch  
Carol Latimer, Director, Housing Policy Branch, Ministry of Housing  
Patrick Mitchell, Director, Mental Health and Addictions Branch, MOHLTC  
Richard Joly, Vice President, Home and Community Care, NE LHIN  
Patrick Dicerri, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Planning Division, MOHLTC  
Sharon Lee Smith, Associate Deputy Minister, Policy and Transformation, MOHLTC