

Providence Care receives close to \$1 Million from HealthForceOntario

February 6, 2009 – Kingston – Three new interdisciplinary professional development projects at Providence Care have received almost \$1 million in funding through HealthForceOntario.

The funding will support a number of programs across Providence Care with a focus on employee development and retention throughout all disciplines and programs. Building strong health care human resources will result in increased leadership capacity and have a direct impact on the quality of patient care through enhanced knowledge, skills and commitment from staff.

Dr. John Puxty, Chief of Staff at Providence Care is at the forefront of a number of the projects and will head a \$423,650 initiative, *Building Collaborative Interprofessional Care Capacity within Long Term Care*. This project will build upon expertise and experiences at the Providence Manor site and engage a number of provincial partners.

"The HealthForceOntario projects we are leading at Providence Care represent a progressive way of delivering client, resident and patient-centred care," says Dr. Puxty. "By creating effective communication and collaborative opportunities across all disciplines, we are not only accelerating widespread innovations in patient care, we are strengthening our ability to attract new medical professionals to our community."

In this most recent round of HealthForceOntario funding, Providence Care also received \$426,675 for an *Intersectoral Mobile Interprofessional Coaching Team*, a project that will include 250 participants and develop an interdisciplinary learning network. As well as \$62,000 for the *Changing the Culture of Customer Service for Patient, Families and Health Caregivers: a Learning Process*. This project will encourage collaboration between patients and families with their health care provider in managing their health.

HealthForceOntario has supported Providence Care in previous projects including a program for nurses that are mature in their career to assist them in transitioning to mentorship roles to share their knowledge and experience. As well, there is the \$249,000 Career Development project that was approved in the fall of 2008. The Career Development and Coach Mastery Program is primed to take its first group of participants in February.

Leading the Career Development program is Christina Scott, a registered nurse in specialized geriatrics at St. Mary's of the Lake. She will act as Coordinator for the program that will result in 80 participants taking part in Career Directions Workshops and 12 staff training to become interdisciplinary career coaches. This proactive undertaking will sustain the development, needs and professional aspirations of Providence Care staff for years to come.

"This funding provides opportunities for our employees to embody knowledge, innovation and commitment to excellence." Vice President of Programs and Chief Nursing Officer Marcy Saxe-Braithwaite says. "We are advancing a sustainable and integrated team of health care professionals that are leaders in research and care, not just here in our community, but throughout our entire region."

The projects are being administered through several departments and all initiatives will be completed by September 2010.

Providence Care is southeastern Ontario's leading provider of rehabilitation, specialized geriatric care, complex continuing care, specialized mental health care, palliative care and long-term care. One of Kingston's university hospitals, Providence Care has three main sites in Kingston: Mental Health Services, St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital and Providence Manor, as well as 18 community locations. Affiliated with Queen's University, Providence Care is a major centre for teaching and research.

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