Erie St. Clair LHIN
RLISS d'Érié St. Clair
www.eriestclairlhin.on.ca

180 Riverview Drive
Chatham ON N7M 5Z8
Tel: 1-866-231-5446
519-351-5677
Fax: 519-351-9672

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Chatham ON N7M 5Z8
Tél: 1-866-231-5446
519-351-5677
Téléc: 519-351-9672

September 18, 2008

**To:** Erie St. Clair LHIN Health Service Provider Chairs and Executive Directors

**From:** Mina Grossman-Ianni, Chair, Board of Directors, Erie St. Clair LHIN

**Re:** **Local Health Integration Network/Health Service Provider (LHIN – HSP) Governance Resource and Toolkit for Voluntary Integration Initiatives**

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The Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) announces the release of the *Local Health Integration Network/Health Service Provider (LHIN – HSP) Governance Resource and Toolkit for Voluntary Integration Initiatives* which is now available on the Erie St. Clair LHIN website at: http://eriestclairlhin.on.ca.

The toolkit is currently being translated to French. A knowledge transfer slide deck is also being developed. You will be notified when these items will be made available.

The toolkit was developed through a joint initiative of five Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs); associations representing the health service providers funded through the LHINs, and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

The project was initiated in November 2007, in response to early consultations between the LHINs and health service providers regarding the provisions for voluntary integration in the Local Health Systems Integration Act, 2006.

The Act places an obligation on LHINs and on health service providers to identify opportunities to integrate services, which capture a broad range of activities including coordination, partnering with others, and transferring, merging or amalgamating services.

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The purpose of the toolkit is to:

- Assist health service provider Boards to understand evolving LHIN practices, processes and expectations arising from interpretations and applications of the Act as illustrated by the experience of the participating LHINs;

- Support health service provider Boards in understanding their respective roles and responsibilities in providing appropriate leadership to their organizations and in developing strategies to work with one another and with the LHIN Boards on voluntary integration initiatives

The sponsoring LHINs included Central East, Central West, South East, Erie St. Clair and Central, with supporting input and participation from several other LHINs throughout the province. Health service providers were represented by the Ontario Health Providers Alliance (OHPA) and the Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres (OACCAC).

A Project Steering Committee was created from the participating organizations, and a consulting team comprising Maureen Quigley of Maureen Quigley and Associates Inc., Lydia Wakulowsky of the law firm McMillan LLP, and Graham Scott of Graham Scott Strategies Inc.

Best regards,

Mina Grossman-Ianni
Chair, Board of Directors
Erie St. Clair LHIN

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