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**Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network**

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June 22, 2010

## **Caring Culture: supportive housing helps seniors at Kettle and Stony Point First Nation**

Residents of Wiidsemshin Assisted Living Facility on Kettle and Stony Point First Nation are receiving care from a team of health care professionals, most of whom are from within their own First Nations community and share their same culture and values.

Wiidsemshin, an Ojibway word meaning “walk with me awhile”, opened in 2007 and provides culturally appropriate long-term care to elderly and disabled clients from the broader aboriginal community. In July 2010, the facility was funded by the Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network’s (ESC LHIN’s) Aging at Home Strategy for five assisted living units to improve access to community support services.

The impact of the new services has been significant with 810 patient days avoided at local hospitals in 2009/10, helping to reduce the levels of Alternate Level of Care Days at Bluewater Health from a high of 28% in November 2008 to 7% as of June 10, 2010.

Wiidsemshin is part of the Home and Community Care Program of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. Residents of the home have access to an array of other services that includes:

- Traditional Healer
- Day Program
- Congregate Dinning
- Pastoral Care
- Social activities
- Loan Cupboard
- Cultural events

For more information on the Aging at Home Strategy, visit [www.eriesticclairhin.on.ca](http://www.eriesticclairhin.on.ca).