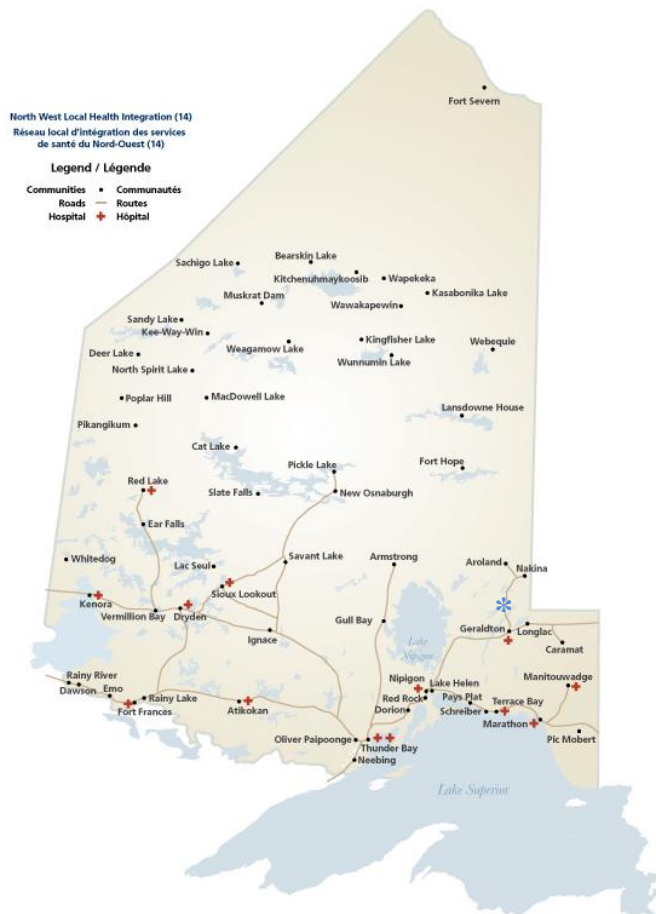


North West LHIN



North West Local Health Integration Network



Our Purpose

The North West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) brings together health care partners from the following sectors – hospitals, community care, community support services, community mental health and addictions, community health centres and long-term care – to develop innovative, collaborative solutions leading to more timely access to high quality services for the residents of Northwestern Ontario. Supporting these important partnerships ensures access to an effective and efficient health care system that delivers improved health care results and a better patient experience.

The Vast Area We Serve

The North West LHIN covers 47% of Ontario's total land mass and is home to approximately 235,000 people (2006 census), or just 2% of Ontario's population. Our population density of 0.5 people per square kilometre is the lowest in the province.

Our boundaries extend from just west of White River to the Manitoba border and from Hudson Bay in the north to the United States border. Portions of our population live in remote areas (the majority of whom are Aboriginal) with road access only in the winter; others are accessible only by air.

* Note: The **Municipality of Greenstone** is an amalgamation of the former townships of Beardmore and Nakina, the towns of Geraldton and Longlac, and the communities of Caramat, Jellicoe, Orient Bay and MacDiarmid. The catchment area also includes the following First Nations communities- Long Lake #58, Ginoogaming, Rocky Bay, Sand Point, Lake Nipigon Ojibway (Animbiigoo-Zaagi'gan Anishinaabek), Poplar Point First Nation, and Aroland First Nation.



Ontario

Local Health Integration
Network

Our Population

Health Status of Northwestern Ontario

Relative to the rest of the province as of 2009, the North West LHIN has a higher:

- Proportion who smoke (25.3% versus 18.6%);
- Proportion of heavy drinkers (21.8 % versus 15.6%);
- Percentage who are overweight/obese (60.6 % versus 51.4%);
- Prevalence and earlier onset of many chronic diseases;
- Rates of death due to all causes, all circulatory system diseases, unintentional and self-inflicted injuries for both male and females.

And a lower:

- Percentage with a regular primary care provider (86.8% versus 93%);
- Life expectancy for females and males (81.0 years versus 83.1 years and 76.1 years versus 78.8 years respectively);
- Proportion reporting self-rated mental health as “excellent” or “very good” (68.3% versus 74.0%).

Population

- According to the latest Ministry of Finance population estimates and projections, the North West LHIN’s estimated population for 2009 was 238,245 and projected to be 237,460 for 2011, a 0.3% decrease. Between 2011 and 2030, the Ministry of Finance projects our population to slightly decline to 235,807 in 2030, a 0.7% decrease.
- A 78% increase in the number of seniors (age 65 and over) living in the North West LHIN is projected between 2011 and 2030.
- 19.2% of those in the Northwest self-identify as Aboriginal. This is the highest of the 14 LHINs and much higher than the provincial average of 2.0%.
- The proportion of residents who are Francophone is slightly lower than the province as a whole (3.5% versus 4.4%).

Strengths in Northwestern Ontario

- **Technology:** Those living in the Northwest are leaders at using technology (including telemedicine and eHealth infrastructure to improve access to care). Fifty six (56) percent of family physicians have adopted the electronic medical record, which is the 3rd highest uptake in the province.
- **Partnerships:** People living in Northwestern Ontario have a history of working together to meet the needs of their community and improve the lives of their neighbours. This trend continues, as evidenced by the strong participation in community engagement activities.
- **Innovation:** The Northwest continues to be recognized for its innovation. Planning for and providing care in remote and rural Northern communities results in the need to try new things to meet the needs of our region (e.g. service provision, health human resource planning and training).

