

Health Equity & Social Determinants of Health Staff Bulletin | January 2016

The Stars Are Aligning:

HQO Summit

As the provincial advisor on health care quality, Health Quality Ontario (HQO) is in a unique position to initiate and promote substantial and sustainable change to the province's complex health system.

Recognizing that equity is an essential dimension of quality, this year HQO is embarking on a journey to develop a roadmap to improve health equity in Ontario.

To inform this roadmap, HQO hosted a Health Equity Summit on December 3, 2015, bringing together leaders, experts, partners and lived experience advisors from across Ontario.

The HNHB LHIN plans to align with HQO's definition of health equity and continue to partner with HQO as they lead the transformation of the health care system to improve equity in access, experience and outcomes for all individuals living in Ontario.

For information on Ontario's health system performance, please see HQO's annual report [Measuring Up 2015](#).



"Health equity is achieved when all individuals living in Ontario are able to reach their full health potential, and receive high quality care that is fair and appropriate to them and their needs, no matter where they live, what they have, or who they are."

- Health Quality Ontario



MOHLTC Health Equity Branch

Over the years, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has worked to advance quality and equity in health care service design and delivery (e.g. development of the Healthy Equity Impact Assessment tool). To further advance this work, on July 1, 2015, the MOHLTC formed the Health Equity Branch within the Strategic Policy and Planning Division.

The branch will lead policy, program and evaluation projects that enhance quality of care and cost-effective system access for the diverse populations of Ontario. In addition, the branch will serve as a Centre of Excellence offering advisory services in health equity and collaborative project development.

Divided into three units (aboriginal health policy, integrated health benefit, and health equity policy), the branch will act as a focal point for collaborative work and will lead priority projects that develop and demonstrate new partnership and delivery models.

The HNHB LHIN will continue to support and align with the work of the MOHLTC; as well as continue to collaborate with other LHINs to improve equity and to achieve better health for all.

Syrian Refugees

As many of you are aware the federal and provincial governments have committed to accepting and settling 25,000 Syrian refugees into Canada.

Seven local leads in Ontario were identified to play an important role in this process across the province. Wesley Urban Ministries (WUM) in Hamilton is the local area lead for the settlement process as it relates to the HNHB LHIN. The HNHB LHIN is working closely with WUM and supporting their efforts to coordinate the resettlement of the newcomers to our community. For more information, please visit [WUM's Syrian Refugee Information Portal](#).



Effects on the Ground: Social Determinants of Health in the News

The effects of the social determinants of health and health inequities are getting noticed. Here are a few headlines, from the last few months, that highlight the importance of recognizing and addressing them.

NATIONAL POST

[Inuit - once relatively cancer-free - now have highest lung-cancer rate in the world: study](#)



[Port Colborne to tackle poverty, health with new committee](#)

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

[Justin Trudeau vows renewal of relationship with aboriginals](#)



[Costs of Not Providing Interpretation in Health Care](#)



[City task force to tackle 'healthy' issues](#)

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

[CAMH to 'wind down' controversial gender identity clinic services](#)

Patients First: We Want Your Feedback

On December 17, 2015, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care released [Patients First: A Proposal to Strengthen Patient-Centred Health Care in Ontario](#), a discussion paper that outlines significant structural changes to the health system.

The HNHB LHIN and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care welcome your feedback.

[HNHB LHIN](#) by 5:00 pm Friday, February 19, 2016.

[MOHLTC](#) by 5:00 pm Monday February 29, 2016.



Additional Resources

[SickKids Cultural Competence E-Learning Module Series](#)

A series of 15 open-access multimedia and interactive e-learning modules were created to increase the accessibility to and dissemination of cultural competence educational resources.

[Code Red: Explaining Average Age of Death in the City of Hamilton](#)

The aim of this study is to identify the underlying factors that explain the average age of death in the City of Hamilton.

[CIHI's Health Inequalities Interactive Tool](#)

The Health Inequalities Interactive Tool provides a series of visualizations to explore inequalities for 9 health indicators over time, by sex and by province.

See [video](#) on tips on how to interpret the tool.

LHIN Contact Information

If you have any feedback on the bulletin or would like to make a contribution, please contact [Rachelle](#) or [Kelly](#).