

## Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network honours exceptional Caregivers in Hamilton-Burlington

### NEWS

October 24, 2017

Thirty-nine unpaid caregivers from across Hamilton and Burlington are being honoured today as part of the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network's (HNHB LHIN) Annual *Heroes in the Home* caregiver recognition program. For 2017, a total of 120 unpaid caregivers have been nominated throughout HNHB.

*Heroes in the Home* honours unpaid caregivers who support and care for their loved ones at home and in the community, so they can live fulfilling lives regardless of such limitations as disability, illness or age. Anyone can nominate an unpaid caregiver for a *Heroes* award at any time during the year. The only criteria is that caregivers must reside within the HNHB region and provide care to someone living in Ontario.

*"I am honoured to be recognized," says Gil LeBlanc who was nominated by his wife. "I've been a caregiver for a long time and I have to admit, the things that keep me going are the appreciation of my spouse and the support of friends and the care team."*

*Fellow Heroes nominee Glen Williams says, "Caring for someone you love is one of the greatest gifts you can give to a family member. I've always considered my wife to be my hero because of her fight to survive and her will to live," says Glen. "I am humbled to be recognized as my wife's hero, especially when I think about the struggles she has had to face."*

According to Statistics Canada, approximately 3.3 million unpaid caregivers provide support to their loved ones in Ontario alone, with an estimated annual value of more than \$31 billion in the health care system.

### QUOTES

*"Caregivers are an integral and often overlooked part of our health care system who make a difference in the lives of tens of thousands of people across our region every day. These unsung heroes provide the necessary support that makes it possible for their loved ones to live at home."*

- Janine van den Heuvel, Board Chair HNHB LHIN

*“We are pleased to honour and thank our celebrated caregivers, recognizing their selfless dedication in caring for family members, friends and neighbours. Without these exceptional people, we couldn’t do what we do across the health care system.”*

- Donna Cripps, CEO, HNHB LHIN

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## **QUICK FACTS**

- With a budget of more than \$3 billion, and covering Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand, Brant, Burlington and most of Norfolk, HNHB LHIN is home to a diverse population of more than 1.4 million people. The LHIN plans and funds the local health care system by working with more than 185 providers. We also coordinate and deliver home and community care and support services for more than 85,000 people across the LHIN.
- HNHB LHIN is committed to dramatically improving the patient experience through quality, integration and value while supporting our vision to create a health care system that helps keep people healthy, gets them good care when they are sick, and will be there for our children and grandchildren.

For more information on the HNHB LHIN, please visit: [www.hnhblhin.on.ca](http://www.hnhblhin.on.ca).

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