



## NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Calling all seniors and caregivers to join in the exciting Northumberland PATH project!  
*Open house and new e-newsletter two ways to connect if you haven't done so already!***

Northumberland County, ON (October 29, 2013) – Seniors and caregivers in west Northumberland (and all those with an interest in the challenging healthcare transitions they navigate) are invited to join the **Northumberland Community Partnership** for the first PATH Community Open House.

**When: Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**  
**Where: Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer Street East, Cobourg**

Drop in any time. **Meet** members of the PATH project teams, **see** the ideas and tools that are being developed and tested right here in west Northumberland to help seniors share health information and improve experiences during healthcare transitions, and **share** your feedback.

### ***What's PATH?***

In July 2011, [The Change Foundation](#), a healthcare think tank, announced \$3 million in funding for the first project of its kind in Ontario: **Partners Advancing Transitions in Healthcare** or, simply, **PATH**.

Twenty-seven communities and organizations competed for this unique project focused on improving experiences for seniors with chronic conditions and their caregivers as they move in, out of, and across the healthcare system.

In June 2012, the **Northumberland Community Partnership**—a newly formed partnership of patients, caregivers and 12 other partners—was announced as the successful coalition.

“Northumberland showed the smarts, the heart, the team, the ideas, and the experience to set PATH up for success,” said Cathy Fooks, CEO of The Change Foundation, when explaining her organization's rationale for selecting Northumberland as the successful community.

Among the questions that the Northumberland PATH project teams have set out to examine are:

- where are transitions working well from one healthcare provider to another?
- where are transitions not working?
- what is required to improve healthcare transitions for seniors and their caregivers?

Thanks to The Change Foundation's funding, Northumberland seniors, caregivers, healthcare providers and support agencies have come together as equal partners in the PATH project. This "experience based co-design" is one of the key elements that make PATH unique. Together the partners aim to:

- **improve** experiences for seniors and their caregivers as they move in, out of and across Ontario’s healthcare system;
- **seek** solutions to the real needs of patients and caregivers;
- **test** a totally new approach for Ontario - experience-based co-design; and
- **prompt** system-wide change that will enable seniors and caregivers to live the highest possible quality of life, at home, for as long as possible.

PATH is an exciting local effort with provincial -- and, arguably, national -- potential!

***Who are the PATH partners?***

The **Northumberland Community Partnership** is comprised of the following:

**Seniors and caregivers** recruited from the Northumberland community

**Healthcare providers**

- Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH)
- Northumberland Family Health Team
- NHH Community Mental Health Services

**Community providers**

- Central East Community Care Access Centre
- Community Care Northumberland
- Golden Plough Lodge Long-Term Care Home
- Palisade Gardens Retirement Residence
- YMCA Northumberland

**Others**

- Central East Local Health Integration Network
- Health System Performance Research Network
- Patients Canada (formerly Patients' Association of Canada)
- QoC Health (technology partner)

***Subscribe to PATH News today!***

A new e-newsletter has been created by the Northumberland PATH team to share the latest PATH news, events and key milestones. To subscribe to **PATH News** simply go to PATH hub on The Change Foundation website at [www.changefoundation.ca/projects/path](http://www.changefoundation.ca/projects/path) and look for the PATH E-NEWS tab. Complete the prompts and a quick email will be returned asking you to confirm your new subscription.

We all know a senior living with one or more chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes or arthritis, and we know many more caregivers who support seniors, too. Encourage them to get connected with Northumberland PATH, at the upcoming Open House or via the newsletter, so they can share their ideas and experiences too. Together, we can all improve transitions in the healthcare system for ourselves and others coming behind us, here in Northumberland and beyond.

**Learn more:** [www.changefoundation.ca/projects/path](http://www.changefoundation.ca/projects/path). **Contact:** Northumberland Community Partnership - Jennifer Gillard, 905-377-7757 or [jgillard@nhh.ca](mailto:jgillard@nhh.ca); The Change Foundation – Anila Sunnak, 416-205-1325 or [asunnak@changefoundation.com](mailto:asunnak@changefoundation.com)