

## PSW Registry

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has ended its funding for the Ontario PSW Registry, which has been operating within the Ontario Community Support Association. This means the final date you can reach the Registry will be February 29<sup>th</sup> 2016.

At this time, the Ministry is considering a number of options related to ensuring a safe and competent PSW workforce. If you have questions about the Ministry's decision and/or its evolving home and community care policies, you may contact them directly at 416-314-5518 or 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free).

The Ontario PSW registry remains committed to safeguarding PSWs' privacy. All personal information that identifies who they are (e.g.: name, address, phone number, email address and documents) will be removed from the database and only non-identifiable information about the workforce will be retained when the Registry shuts down.

Registration with the Registry has always been voluntary for PSWs. At this time, registration confirmation and the Job Board are now no longer available. PSWs who have applied to and/or registered with the Registry have been notified about this development. **We have been asked to share this with PSWs in our employment.**

If you would like additional information you may also contact the registry at [EmployerRelations@pswregistry.org](mailto:EmployerRelations@pswregistry.org) until the closure date and thereafter the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

Approximately 35,000 PSWs voluntarily registered. PSWs are the backbone of home and community care, ensuring that Ontarians receive the care they need, in the communities they choose to be.

### Winter Break...Wacky Wednesday Winners!



From left: "Judge Marisa", Kimberly, Nicole, Sylvia, Ajit, Gail, Jenna. Nila and "Judge Charmaine". As you can see, Central Registry is a very cohesive team and deserving of their first place win!

Also to be applauded, second place went to the SDL Bunny team of Maricel, Rose, Pradeesh, Jijo, Fitzgerald, and Kate.



## A Message from Beverley John, CEO

Winter Issue



Hello again.

The holiday season is long gone and I hope you are refreshed for the New Year ahead! Nucleus experienced much growth last year and we look forward to many exciting opportunities for further growth and improvements within our organization in 2016.

Of note, in the coming months we will be working with our consumers, partners, employees and stakeholders to refresh our strategic plan to reflect and align with the ongoing transformation within home and community care with the goal of providing a better experience for our clients. The timing of this exercise aligns well with our upcoming consumer engagement survey.

Additionally, we are diligently working toward our second accreditation survey this spring. Stay tuned.

### SERVICE FEEDBACK WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

#### Attention Consumers and Care Givers:

As a Health Service Provider, we take pride in providing quality service to our clientele. We also take pride in our capable staff that are on the front lines providing these services directly.

We are asking you - our valued consumers and care givers – to provide feedback on the services we are providing for you.

Once again, we are working with National Research Corporation Canada (NRCC) to conduct our consumer engagement survey. One of their representatives will be calling to ask you a few questions. Your identity and your responses will be kept confidential by NRCC. Nucleus will not be able to identify you when we receive the results. We thank you in advance for your participation. Your responses provide us with valuable information.

## Patients First: A Proposal to Strengthen Patient-Centred Health Care in Ontario

The Ministry's proposal for health system transformation has four components

Effective Integration of Services and Greater Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make LHINs responsible for all health service planning and performance.</li> <li>• Identify sub-LHIN regions as the focal point for integrated service planning and delivery (note that these regions would not be an additional layer of bureaucracy).</li> </ul>
Timely Access to, and Better Integration of, Primary Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LHINs would take on responsibility for primary care planning and performance improvement, in partnership with local clinical leaders.</li> </ul>
More Consistent and accessible Home & Community Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct responsibility for service management and delivery would be transferred from CCACs to the LHINs.</li> </ul>
Stronger Links to Population & Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linkages between LHINs and public health units would be formalized.</li> </ul>

### Anticipated Performance Improvements include:

- ⊙ Care delivered based on community needs
- ⊙ Appropriate care options enhanced within communities
- ⊙ Easier access to a range of care services
- ⊙ Better connections between care providers in offices, clinics, home and hospital
- ⊙ All patients who want a primary care provider have one
- ⊙ More same-day, next-day, after-hours and weekend care
- ⊙ Lower rates of hospital readmissions; lower emergency department use
- ⊙ Higher patient satisfaction
- ⊙ Easier transitions from acute, primary, home and community care and long-term care
- ⊙ Clear standards for home and community care
- ⊙ Greater consistency and transparency around the province
- ⊙ Better patient and caregiver experience
- ⊙ Health service delivery better reflects population needs
- ⊙ Public health and health service delivery better integrated
- ⊙ Social determinants of health and health equity incorporated into care planning
- ⊙ Stronger linkages between disease prevention, health promotion and care

You can also visit the Mississauga Halton LHIN website and complete a feedback survey:

<http://www.mississaugahaltonlhin.on.ca/communityengagement/currentengagements/patientsfirstproposal>

## Be Prepared to Stay Safe and Healthy in Winter



**Winter storms and cold temperatures can be hazardous. Stay safe and healthy ahead. Prepare your home and cars. Prepare for power outages and outdoor a older adults.**

Although winter comes as no surprise, many of us are not ready for its arrival. If you are prepared for the hazards of winter, you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall.

### Take These Steps for Your Home:

#### Winterize your home.

- Install weather stripping, insulation, and storm windows.
- Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls.
- Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks.

#### Check your heating systems.

- Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly, and ventilated to the outside.
- Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
- Install a smoke detector. Test batteries monthly.
- Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.
- Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies.
  - Install a CO detector to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check batteries when you change your clocks in the fall and spring.
  - Learn symptoms of CO poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion.

### Take These Precautions Outdoors

Many people spend time outdoors in the winter working, traveling, or enjoying winter sports. Outdoor activities can expose you to several safety hazards, but you can take these steps to prepare for them:

- Wear appropriate outdoor clothing: layers of light, warm clothing; mittens; hats; scarves; and waterproof boots.
- Sprinkle cat litter or sand on icy patches.
- Learn safety precautions to follow when outdoors.
  - Be aware of the wind chill factor.
  - Work slowly when doing outside chores.
  - Take a buddy and an emergency kit when you are participating in outdoor recreation.
  - Carry a cell phone.