



**REPORT TO:** Co-Chairs and Members of  
Public Health and Social Services Committee

**SUBJECT:** **2008 Seniors Services Amending Agreements  
Between Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB)  
Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and Niagara Region  
For Second Phase of Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) Initiative**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

That this Committee recommends to Regional Council that the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into a second 2008 Amending Agreement for each of the eight long-term care homes with Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) for the receipt of base funding of \$723,315 for sustaining previously approved 8.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) positions and for creating additional 4.6 FTE RPN positions.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Staff are in receipt of correspondence from the LHIN requesting the execution of a second 2008 Amending Agreement for each of the eight long-term care homes operated by Niagara Region's Seniors Services (one Amending Agreement attached). Seniors Services will subsequently receive \$723,315 to sustain the first phase of the 8.0 FTE RPN positions and to apply the balance in the second phase toward the addition of the applicable RPN FTEs in each home.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Provincial subsidy for these RPN positions will be \$723,315 for the eight long-term care homes. This base funding is to sustain the previously approved 8.0 FTEs of RPNs (COM 13-2008, April 1, 2008) and to create additional FTEs of RPNs to the level afforded by the funding.

The LHIN requires home operators to commit the entire funding amount to the creation of RPN positions, including a minimum of one new full-time position per home. Operators are not expected to top-up the RPN funding. Any unspent funding will be recovered by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Accordingly, the original 8.0 FTEs and the anticipated addition of up to 4.6 FTEs of RPNs will be 100 per cent covered by this LHIN funding, except for Deer Park Villa. Deer Park Villa will offset its additional cost of approximately \$8,000 for its additional RPN through other cost savings to avoid any contribution from the Region.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to obtain the necessary Committee and Council approval to authorize the Regional Chairman and Clerk to execute eight Amending Agreements with the HNHB LHIN enabling the receipt of \$723,315 for the stabilization and introduction of a total of 12.6 FTEs of RPNs in the eight long-term care homes.

## **BACKGROUND**

In May 2007, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care announced \$57.7 million in annual funding for 1,200 new and permanent RPN positions in all long-term care homes in Ontario. This base funding must be applied to the creation of at least one full-time RPN position per home, with any remaining funding applied exclusively to creating new RPN hours.

Currently, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care through the LHIN has existing Service Agreements with each of the Region's long-term care homes. These agreements outline the expectations for resident accommodation, care, services, programs and goods in an effort to ensure that all long-term care homes in Ontario are operated within the applicable legislation, the Ministry's Program Manual and the specifics of the agreement. Report COM 57-2006, dated September 19, 2006, approved the execution of these existing Service Agreements.

The LHIN had required all operators to execute Amending Agreement Number 1 that amended the current Service Agreement between the LHIN and the Region in order to receive the first installment of the additional funding for each of the eight homes. (COM 13-2008, April 1, 2008)

## **REPORT**

The Ministry has revisited the method of allocating additional funding to all long-term care homes in Ontario such that all homes will receive at least sufficient funds to sustain the minimum of one new RPN position, irrespective of the size of home. Homes with over 71 beds will receive additional funding equal to \$1.99 per resident per day, adjusted to the individual home's Case Mix Index (CMI).

Accordingly, the Niagara Region's long-term care homes will receive the following additional base funding to sustain the minimum additional full-time RPN per home and to create additional new RPN hours:

	Total 2008/09 Funding	Phase 1 FTEs	Phase 2 FTEs
Deer Park Villa	\$ 47,895	1.0	.0
Gilmore Lodge	54,351	1.0	.0
Linhaven	171,557	1.0	1.8
Meadows of Dorchester	91,846	1.0	0.6
Northland Pointe	112,112	1.0	0.9
Rapelje Lodge	91,558	1.0	0.6
Upper Canada Lodge	61,172	1.0	0.1
Woodlands of Sunset	<u>92,824</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>0.6</u>
TOTALS	\$723,315	8.0	4.6

The homes are required to report to the Ministry each year the expenses incurred for this RPN funding initiative. Any unspent funding is subject to reconciliation with the Ministry.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

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Brian Hutchings  
Commissioner, Community Services

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Mike Trojan  
Chief Administrative Officer

*This report was prepared by Dominic Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services, and reviewed by Cathy Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services and Maureen Shantz, Senior Manager Resident Care and Services.*