

January 15, 2009

Dear Candidate,

Each of us has a story to tell about our health care system, about the services we use and expect. We each have an idea about what's right and wrong, about what works and what needs fixing.

This letter is a special invitation to help shape your health care system.

The South East Local Health Integration Network (SE LHIN) is a provincial agency responsible for planning and funding health care delivery in our region. This year, the SE LHIN is preparing a plan for our local health system that allows us to take a careful look at our regional health care priorities over the next three years. It's our job to work with the health care community and citizens to ensure that we make sure our priorities and standards are the right ones. This is a tough task and it requires balancing many different interests, demands and pressures. It's why we are reaching out to citizens throughout the region for their input and assistance. After all, those who use health care services are also those who pay for the system. As part of a six-month process to help us create our next strategic plan, we are convening a Citizens' Reference Panel on Health Service Planning and Integration.

There are more than 440,000 citizens who live in the South East region. **Your household is among 5,000 households that have been randomly selected to receive this letter.** With it comes an invitation to put your name forward to become a member of the South East LHIN's ENGAGE 2009: Citizens' Reference Panel on Health System Planning and Integration. This invitation is transferable to any member of your household who would like to apply to serve their community by providing input and advice.

Next month, we will hold a draw to randomly select 36 citizens who respond to this letter to become the members of the Citizens' Reference Panel. This Panel will meet on three Saturdays in February and March.

During these three sessions, you will learn about how the health care system works and how we're planning for the future. Then you will have a chance to help us work through a series of issues or scenarios that will help us figure out what the right next steps might be. We will work towards a set of ideas that we will share with other citizens throughout the region.

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The Citizens' Reference Panel will meet on February 28, March 7, March 21 in either Inverary or Kingston from 9:30am to 4pm.

We will provide lunch and light snacks as well as travel subsidies to those traveling a great distance. We are also committed to ensuring that this panel is accessible to you and so, if needed, we are happy to provide childcare or hearing or visual support as required.

If you would like to put your name forward for the panel, we would ask that you hold the session dates until Monday February 9 when the successful candidates will be notified by phone.

You can submit your name for the civic lottery to select members of the Panel by filling out the enclosed Candidate Form. **Please return it to us using the enclosed response envelope post dated no later than Friday, February 6, 2009.**

Enclosed is a series of 'frequently asked questions' containing more information about this opportunity.

If you have any further questions, please call **1-800-369-7136** from 8am to 8pm daily.

Sincerely,



Georgina Thompson, Chair
South East LHIN



Paul Huras, Chief Executive Officer
South East LHIN