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## MEDIA RELEASE

June 2021

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### **Central Ontario Health Team for Specialized Populations launches new website**

Ontario Health Teams (OHT) are building a connected health care system centred around patients, families and caregivers. Patients will experience easier transitions from one provider to another, including, for example, between hospitals and community care providers, with one patient story, one patient record and one care plan.

The Central OHT for Specialized Populations has just launched their website to help the community learn more about it.

“We are fundamentally changing the way we work together,” said Carol Lambie, President and CEO at Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care. “Ontario Health Teams are a great opportunity to collectively make meaningful change for specialized populations, their caregivers and health services providers.”

The Central OHT for Specialized Populations is a network of agencies, clients, families and care partners with expert knowledge, unique skills and experience in caring for people with highly complex needs. They are working together to provide a better healthcare experience by bringing expertise in specialized services through an individual’s lifespan.

The team also links to other OHT’s to ensure a seamless delivery of care where excellent specialized services are available to all who need them.

The Central OHT for Specialized Populations’ vision is a local healthcare system that:

- Provides support to priority populations including mental health and addictions, seniors, and Indigenous peoples;
- Builds a strong framework for patients, families and caregivers; and
- Implements an improved digital health strategy to transform the way care is delivered

“The Central OHT for Specialized Populations is changing the way health service providers, professionals, and persons with lived experience work together to improve the quality of life of clients/patients, care partners, and families in this region,” said Debbie Islam, Vice-Chair of the Central OHT for Specialized Populations Steering Committee and Chief Executive Officer at Alzheimer Society of Simcoe County. “The Alzheimer Society of Simcoe County is thrilled to be a partner in this important transformational initiative.”

Visit the Central OHT for Specialized Populations at <https://www.ohtspecialized.ca/>. The French version of the site will be available by the end of July.



Members of the Central OHT for Specialized Populations are:

- Alzheimer Society of Simcoe County
- Canadian Mental Health Association Simcoe County
- County of Simcoe, Long-Term Care & Seniors, and Paramedic Services
- Hands The Family Help Network
- Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin Primary Care Team
- New Path Youth & Family Services of Simcoe County
- North Simcoe Muskoka Hospice Palliative Care Network
- The Patient/Client & Family Council
- Pine River Institute
- Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care including North Simcoe Muskoka Specialized Geriatric Services and Family, Child and Youth Program

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