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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Seniors Care Network Launches Second Annual Geriatric Education Initiative – Continuing to Build Capacity in Seniors Care within Central East Local Health Integration Network**

**NEWS** - Fostering excellence is a strategic priority for the Seniors Care Network. Consistent with this focus, the Organization is pleased to announce the launch of the Second Annual Geriatric Education Initiative (GEI). In fiscal 2016/17, the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) is funding a maximum of \$40,000 to support the GEI tuition reimbursement grant program. Granted funds will be available to support continuing professional development aimed at improving geriatric/gerontological knowledge and skills.

“Seniors Care Network continues to focus on fostering excellence in the care of frail older adults. This second year of the Geriatric Education Initiative will help us continue to build a strong network of specialized geriatric services focused on providing the best health experience for frail seniors in the Central East Local Health Integration Network. By supporting training and education that is relevant to specialized clinical practice, we are helping health professionals gain the specialized geriatric skills and expertise required to provide the right care for an increasing number of frail seniors,” says Kelly Kay, Executive Director, Seniors Care Network.

Applicants may be eligible to receive up to a maximum of \$1 500 in tuition reimbursement. Please note there is no guarantee that funding will be granted. Seniors Care Network will consider applications for courses completed from April 1, 2016 until March 31, 2017. Funding is intended to reimburse base tuition or registration fees. To be eligible to apply for the Central East GEI, an applicant must:

- Be a regulated health professional registered to practice in Ontario or a personal support worker who is working in a designated partner organization of Seniors Care Network. Individuals working in other programs may apply and may be considered for funding.
- Have completed a course/conference/workshop/seminar that provided training/education that fulfills learning outcomes consistent with the Competency Framework for Interprofessional Geriatric Assessment.
- Be employed in an agency located in the Central East LHIN

Priority will be given to regulated health professionals or personal support workers who are currently working in a designated partner organization of Seniors Care Network who:

- Are currently employed by or collaborating substantially with specialized geriatric service programs (e.g. BSO, GEM, GAIN, NPSTAT, geriatric mental health programs).



- Are applying for continuing professional development specific to specialized geriatric practice
- Completed courses, conferences, workshops or seminars that support learning outcomes consistent with the Competency Framework for Interprofessional Geriatric Assessment and offered in the Province of Ontario

In 2015/16 the GEI fund supported 219 individuals. The 2016/17 GEI is intended to be used to reimburse successful applicants for the tuition or registration fees paid for courses, conferences, workshops, or seminars. Books, course materials, salary replacement, student fees, membership fees, exam fees, travel, meals, or accommodation are not eligible for reimbursement. Funding will be allocated by March 31, 2017 to successful applicants.

Questions regarding the GEI can be directed to [info@seniorscarenetwork.ca](mailto:info@seniorscarenetwork.ca) or by calling 905-372-6811 x4510

An application form is available at: <http://seniorscarenetwork.ca/programs-initiatives/regional-initiatives/>

#### **About Seniors Care Network:**

Seniors Care Network is a partnership of health service providers created by the Central East LHIN in 2011. Seniors Care Network is focused on enhancing the healthcare experience for frail older adults and their caregivers. The specialized geriatrics programs and related services of Seniors Care Network are intended to help older adults with complex health concerns that threaten their independence and function. For more information, go to:

[www.seniorscarenetwork.ca](http://www.seniorscarenetwork.ca)

