

# NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: June 12, 2017

## Health Unit announces new oral health clinic for low income adults

The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit is pleased to announce a new oral health clinic for low income adults in our district. As the recipient of a Community Giving Grant by Green Shield Canada (GSC), the Health Unit will use the funds to help low income adults who have faced challenges in accessing dental care.

“Poor oral health is debilitating for many adults in our community” says Dr. Jim Chirico, Medical Officer of Health. “With the generous help of Green Shield Canada, we will now be able to treat low income adults and positively impact their quality of life.”

GSC is Canada's only national not-for-profit health and dental benefits specialist. The GSC Community Giving Program supports organizations and initiatives that provide frontline care for under-insured or uninsured Canadians. To be eligible, the organization must be a registered charitable, non-profit and/or social enterprise that delivers frontline health care. The Health Unit currently provides dental care for kids and teens 17 years of age or younger through the Healthy Smiles Ontario program.

The adult oral health clinic is in the planning phase and it is expected to be open in the fall of this year. The Health Unit will keep the community and their partners informed as they move forward.

For more information contact Jolinne Kearns, Public Relations Specialist, at 705-474-1400 ext. 2221, or via email at [communications@healthunit.ca](mailto:communications@healthunit.ca)

### Quick Facts

- Cavities are one of the most common chronic diseases.
- Gum disease has been linked to serious health problems such as respiratory infections, heart disease and stroke, diabetes, poor nutrition, osteoporosis and rheumatoid arthritis.
- The impact of poor oral health extends beyond medical problems and can affect learning potential, employability, work attendance and performance, self-esteem and social relationships.
- Ontario's universal health care coverage does not include dental care and publicly-funded dental programs are mostly limited to children and recipients of Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program.
- Those with limited or no dental insurance are more likely to seek dental care only when an emergency arises.

- Approximately 3 patients per day are seen in our district's emergency departments for oral health related issues.
- The adult emergency department visit rate for dental care within our district (831/100,000) is significantly higher than the provincial average (292/100,000).

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## Media Inquiries

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