



The Niagara Ontario Health Team-Équipe Santé Ontario Niagara (NOHT-ÉSON) is a steadily growing network of more than 45 health care providers, social service agencies, educational institutions and patient/client and family/caregiver representatives. We are committed to working as one coordinated team to provide exceptional service, support and care to you, no matter when or where you need it, now and for our future generations.



## VIRTUAL URGENT CARE AVAILABLE TO NIAGARA RESIDENTS

What happens when you don't have access to a doctor or you can't make an appointment to see one?

Niagara residents now have another option to consider for an urgent medical issue or health concern that is not life-threatening.

Patients can make a same-day appointment through [urgentcareontario.ca](http://urgentcareontario.ca), a partnership between Niagara Health, Niagara Ontario Health Team-Équipe Santé Ontario Niagara, and the Ministry of Health.

Through a secure video platform, health care providers diagnose, recommend treatment, write prescriptions, and coordinate referrals to specialists and community providers.

If a patient feels a physical examination is necessary, they can still visit a primary care provider or be directed to the closest emergency department.

A virtual urgent appointment can be made by phone, tablet, or computer. Appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis, Monday to Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Visit [urgentcareontario.ca](http://urgentcareontario.ca) to make an appointment.



### NOHT-ÉSON INFORMATION SESSIONS HELD THROUGHOUT NIAGARA

Representatives from the Niagara Ontario Health Team-Équipe Santé

Ontario Niagara hosted public information sessions in August and September. The intent was to highlight the organization's purpose, recent initiatives, and engagement opportunities.

The eight information sessions took place in Fort Erie, Welland, Lincoln, St. Catharines, and Niagara Falls, and included virtual sessions in French and English.

An overview of the NOHT-ÉSON, its partners, and its goals was provided. Presenters also highlighted initiatives made possible thanks to Health Human Resources Innovation Funding from the Ministry of Health. The sessions concluded with attendees giving input on how they wished to interact with the NOHT-ÉSON and receive future communications.

Participants were asked how they wished to remain involved with the NOHT-ÉSON, how the organization could support their engagement, how they liked to receive communication, and the barriers to participation.

Overall, the feedback received from the eight information sessions indicated that the public is keen to be involved in how services are delivered in the Niagara region. The NOHT-ÉSON is committed to staying engaged with people where they are to achieve an even broader representation of the community as the delivery of health and social care is reimagined. A summary report of the Health Human Resources Innovation Funding can be found on the NOHT-ÉSON's website at [noht-eson.ca](http://noht-eson.ca).

The NOHT-ÉSON is always ready to share what the organization is working on. Contact Josie Faccini at [engagement@noht-eson.ca](mailto:engagement@noht-eson.ca) to have a representative attend an upcoming meeting or event.



*Participants from the St. Catharines information session at Pathstone Mental Health discuss different engagement opportunities.*



## NOHT-ÉSON PARTNERS RECEIVE PENDLETON BLANKETS

Over 30 partner organizations of the NOHT-ÉSON were gifted Pendleton blankets on August 25 and October 7 on behalf of the Indigenous Health Network.

The blanket gifting took place at Hospice Niagara and was guided by Wendy Sturgeon, Executive Director of the Niagara Chapter-Native Women Inc., and Elaine Berwald, Indigenous Cultural Advisor Liaison for Niagara Chapter-Native Women Inc.

Each representative was gifted with and wrapped in a Pendleton blanket. The blankets have a deeply woven history with Indigenous peoples and are integral in many systems and practices with profound and diverse cultural significance.

The gift of a blanket has important meaning for NOHT-ÉSON partners and will be treasured. The blanket is symbolic as a treaty blanket, representing a commitment to working collaboratively and respectfully with Indigenous peoples in Niagara to improve access to care. It also acknowledges the partners' work toward reconciliation and understanding the barriers to health and well-being outcomes for Indigenous peoples.

The NOHT-ÉSON wishes to thank the Indigenous Health Network, and Wendy and Elaine, in particular, for their teachings and gift of the blankets.



*From left to right:  
Wendy Sturgeon,  
Executive Director of the  
Niagara Chapter-Native Women Inc.,  
Linda Boich, Planning Table Co-Lead,  
Carol Nagy, Planning Table Co-Lead,  
David Ceglie, Vice President of  
Clinical Operations at  
Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and  
Rehabilitation Centre,  
and Elaine Berwald,  
Indigenous Cultural Advisor Liaison for  
Niagara Chapter-Native Women Inc.*



ÉQUIPE SANTÉ ONTARIO  
**NIAGARA**  
ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM

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## REGIONAL CANCER PROGRAM LAUNCHES CANCER SCREENING CAMPAIGN

Life is busy, and a lot has been put on hold over the last two years. The Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Regional Cancer Program encourages everyone to #GetBackOnTrack with cancer screening. Pandemic-related delays in accessing health care services have created a backlog of people overdue for screening.

Approximately 31,000 residents are overdue for breast screening, and 47,000 residents are overdue for cervical screening. There is no better time to #GetBackOnTrack.

Did you know the Mobile Cancer Screening Coach is one of several screening options the Regional Cancer Program offers? It makes frequent visits to the Niagara region every month.

For more information on cancer screening, visit [hnhbscreenforlife.ca/getbackontrack](http://hnhbscreenforlife.ca/getbackontrack).



*The Mobile Cancer Screening Coach is rolling into a community near you.*



### MEET THE TEAM

Behind the NOHT-ÉSON is a dedicated staff team committed to supporting the goals of a steadily growing network of more than 45 health care providers, social service agencies, educational institutions, and patient, client, family, and caregiver representatives in the Niagara region.

The staff members' complete biographies can be found at [noht-eson.ca/about/our-team](https://noht-eson.ca/about/our-team).

#### Sabrina Piluso

##### Director of Planning

Sabrina received a Bachelor of Science in Honours Health Sciences and a Master of Arts in Applied Health Sciences with a concentration in Community Health from Brock University. She is a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt and possesses a Risk Management certificate.



Sabrina has worked in various health care planning and quality improvement roles over the past decade. She has held positions at the Centre de santé communautaire Hamilton / Niagara (a French-language community health centre), HNHB and Toronto Central LHINs, and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), among others.

She has a passion for genuine quality improvement in health care, which she applies heavily in her role as the Director of Planning for the NOHT-ÉSON: clearly defining an issue, determining the root cause, implementing solutions that respond to the root cause, measuring impact, and modifying accordingly.

#### Laurel Broski

##### Project Manager, Population Health

Laurel loves leading teams in the evolution of process maps and Gantt charts! Beyond her passion for organization and project management, Laurel thrives in facilitating groups from ideation to strategy. Her experience in change management allows for the application of change principles in many aspects of her work.



She has been involved in various projects and change management initiatives at Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services. Her career has involved a wide range of leadership opportunities, establishing benchmarks for evaluation, and engagement.

Laurel's portfolio with the NOHT-ÉSON includes Home and Community Care, Dementia Care, and Cancer Screening. She is also involved with the Communications and Engagement, Health Equity, and Indicators and Measurement working groups.

#### Hrishi Navare

##### Project Manager, Mental Health and Addictions

Hrishi Navare is an accomplished continuous Quality Improvement (QI) professional. He brings over 15 years of experience across the health care continuum from long-term care,





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primary care, mental health and addiction, and community services sectors in Ontario. Person-centered care using the client's voice in co-designing programs and services are core values for him.

Additionally, he incorporates the social determinants of health and health equity in his work. He is proficient in engaging people across sectors to improve client and provider experiences, services, and outcomes.

In his current role as the Project Manager for Mental Health and Addictions (MHA), Hrishi is excited to advance the integration and coordination of the MHA system in the region.

## **Josie Faccini** Engagement Specialist

Josie has over 20 years of experience in the not-for-profit sector, focusing on employment, community building, and engagement. She also recently received her Inclusive Leadership Certification and is an Inclusion Practitioner through the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion.



While no stranger to health care, Josie has also held the role of Family Physician Recruiter, bringing the Niagara region out of the underserved designation through her numerous recruits.

As the Engagement Specialist for the NOHT-ÉSON, her role is to build awareness, strengthen community relationships, and foster active public participation in health policy development in the Niagara region.

## **Ron Laroche** Manager, Communications and Engagement

Ron has worked in communications for more than 15 years in various capacities, ranging from a broadcast journalist in the Niagara and Chatham-Kent regions to the Director of Communications and Fund Development for Community Living Ontario (CLO).



In addition to CLO, Ron was part of the leadership team of Community Living Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln as the organization's Director of Operations and Interim Executive Director. Some of Ron's most rewarding career highlights have been assisting people with different abilities to engage with their community and the community with them.

As the Manager of Communications and Engagement for the Niagara Ontario Health Team-Équipe Santé Ontario Niagara, Ron oversees the organization's communications and engagement strategies with the goal of enhancing health and social care outcomes for the region's residents.