



Ontario Health
North East

Patient and Family Advisory Council Member Bios

Mary Beaucage – North Bay,

Is Anishnaabe, from Nipissing First Nation, outside of North Bay. Mary has type 2 diabetes and developed end-stage kidney disease in 2013, for which she received dialysis. In March 2015, she received a living donor kidney transplant from her cousin. She is a member of the Ontario Renal Network's Patient and Family Advisory Council and North East Patient and Family Advisory Council, the Can-SOLVE CKD Network's Patient Governance Circle and Indigenous Peoples Engagement Research Council. She has been a keynote speaker, panel member and presenter at national and international nephrology conferences. She brings a wealth of knowledge, enthusiasm and passion to her work. She is interested in educating and advocating in matters of Indigenous health, patient partnership, chronic kidney disease research, and organ donation and transplantation awareness.

Yves Carriere – Espanola

Is a francophone living in a small and rural community and is passionate about finding solutions that will help make people's health care experience better. He has been a patient advisor for the Espanola Regional Health Centre since 2017 and is an active community member volunteering on various committee and boards. As a previous hospital board chair for the MICs group and vice chair for Espanola Regional Health Centre, he has a good understanding of how the health care system functions and the unique challenges people experience in Northern Ontario. He is also a patient advisor for the Ontario Health's CEO Patient and Family Advisors Group. Yves is motivated to serve on the council so that he can contribute to improving the quality of life for people in Northeastern Ontario.

Mara DeFazio – Sault Ste. Marie

Has extensive experience supporting family members to navigate the health care system from hospital, home, long-term care and hospice. She is passionate about being part of the solution and believes everyone should have equitable access to care no matter where they live or their financial or cultural background. Mara is

Francophone and self-identifies as Métis and has a great appreciation for the uniqueness of Northeastern Ontario's diverse population groups. She believes that education is very important to give the public an awareness of services and how to access them. She is a daughter, granddaughter, sister, a wife, a mother, and cherishes these roles.

Nicole Everest – Sudbury

Is a retired senior executive in the financial services sector and has been a caregiver for family members with complex health care issues for many years. As a born and raised Northern Ontario Francophone, Nicole has an appreciation for the unique health care needs of people living in the North. She has dedicated much of her adult life volunteering and is currently a community member on Health Sciences North's (HSN) Finance Committee and mentor to new members, board member for HSN Research Institute as well as a patient and family advisor for the Sudbury & District Nurse Practitioner Clinic. Nicole has also participated as a patient advisor providing input in the submission for the Équipe de Santé Sudbury & District Ontario Health Team. Nicole is excited to bring the patient voice forward and making a positive difference in Northeastern Ontario's health care system.

Joanne Hagger-Perritt – Timmins

Interacts with the health care system on a daily basis as a dialysis patient and has lived experience in many areas of health care. Joanne is the current chair of the PFAC at Timmins and District Hospital. She is also an active volunteer as the Director of Children's Activities on the South Porcupine Pride Committee. She sits on the Board of the Local chapter of the Kidney Foundation and the Provincial Board for the Kidney Foundation. She has long history of being involved with the Parent Advisory Committees at her local elementary school, high school and the District School Board Ontario North East. Joanne looks forward to working together to improve the health care experiences for others.

Terri McMillan – Goulais River

Works for the 911 communications centre in the Algoma district. She has experience working and collaborating with many surrounding community organizations and understands the impact that mental health and addictions has on people's health, wellness and safety. Terri has had to navigate the health care system for a family member who has struggled with mental health and addictions issues (now resolved)

and is a champion for better health system navigation and supports for our most vulnerable population. Terri believes that collaboration among health and social services partners is the key to ensure patients receive quality care that is tailored to their needs.

Travis Morgan – Whitefish

Works with the Deaf community and those struggling with mental health issues. He has acted as a social worker, crisis intervener, a patient advocate and has experience navigating the health care system as a patient with his own hearing loss. He currently sits on Health Sciences North’s accessibility committee and is passionate about helping others navigate the health care system, especially those suffering from disability and hearing loss. He has a great interest in mental health, palliative care, end-of-life care and special care for people with disabilities.

Marie Murphy-Foran – Elliot Lake

Brings considerable past experience working in community care and believes in the importance of addressing social determinants of health for our most vulnerable populations. She has been a caregiver to her parents, helping them navigate the health care system from home care, long-term care to end-of-life. Marie and her husband continue being caregivers for her brother-in-law who is blind and has challenges as a result of brain trauma. She has extensive experience serving as a patient and family advisor as past co-chair for the North East Local Health Integration Network’s Patient and Family Advisory Committee and Ontario Health’s CEO Patient and Family Advisors Group. Marie is a member of: Provincial Geriatrics Leadership Ontario’s Older Adult and Care Partner Advisory Council. She has a passion for innovation and looks forward to working together to ensure priorities and health system issues are addressed collaboratively with patients and their families.

Kimberly Pahpeguish – Wikwemikong

Due to her personal health experiences, Kimberly has always been passionate about health care and pursued a career in nursing. Kimberly currently works as a community physical activities coordinator and is an advocate for holistic health. She first experienced the health care system at the young age of 12 when she lost her mother to cancer and spent a few months providing palliative care support. She has also experienced the health system due to complex medical issues, has since taken charge of her health, and has rebounded to an optimal degree. Kimberly has

extensive experience helping family members navigate the health care system especially within mental health and addictions. She is passionate about wanting to ensure Indigenous patients are able to receive culturally safe care and that no one falls through the cracks.

Hom Shrestha – Sudbury

Is an interdisciplinary rural and northern health Ph.D. student focused on exploring a culturally-safe dementia care model in rural hospitals in Northern Ontario to educate, train and engage rural physicians to care for and diagnose mild cognitive impairment and dementia and preventive educational programs. Hom has served as a patient advisor for Health Sciences North since 2020 and is involved with numerous national and international academic, research, and professional institutions. Hom has a strong interest in dementia care as well as the integration of traditional healing and medicine for Indigenous people.

Theresa Tasse – North Bay

Has been involved with patient and family advisory committees and councils for more than 20 years. She has extensive experience as a caregiver providing care for both her parents who were in long-term care for many years, as her spouse's primary caregiver until his death, providing travel and emotional support to a close friend (now deceased) who was in cancer treatment, and support for three of her sisters who were also living with cancer. Theresa is a PFAC member on the Nipissing Wellness Ontario Health Team sharing her lived experience at the local level. She is excited to help strengthen health care linkages and identify opportunities for collaboration to ensure our health care system remains patient focused.

Miranda Weingartner – Callander

Works full-time in administration as Manager of Administration and non-Clinical Services with the Community Counselling Centre of Nipissing. She has extensive lived experience in the mental health sector as a caregiver to her wife who has been suffering from mental illness for numerous years. She is also a caregiver to her aging parents and a strong advocate for healthy living. She has a strong interest in equitable care for all and reducing stigma towards people seeking help for mental illness and addictions support. Miranda is excited for this opportunity and to share her lived experience and to be an ambassador for better health care for everyone living in Northeastern Ontario.