

'Getting There' Business Plan Update

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Good Afternoon!

You are receiving this email because of your work with Niagara's most vulnerable people* - *'those in our community without the means or ability to access health and human services in a safe and acceptable way – such as those living in poverty, frail seniors, people with mental health and addictions challenges, limited mobility, hearing or visual impairment, or the need for life-sustaining equipment'*.

In May 2014, people from 30 agencies participated in a Niagara-wide *Getting There* Forum, to explore foundational building blocks, gathered by a working group of 16 Niagara partners, for a centrally-dispatched access system to health and human services for Niagara's most vulnerable people*. This group reviewed the Huron-Perth Easy Ride model, and identified key components necessary to build such a system for Niagara, including the following:

- Centralized coordination of already-existing assets and expertise;
- Trusted partnerships and reconciliation of business models among diverse agencies and organizations;
- Sustainable deployment of funds to support technology/IT, staffing, capital purchases, maintenance, accessible fees for all; and
- Technology to work with multiple operating systems and to support current and future needs.

The Brock University Goodman School of Business Consulting Group began development of the *Getting There* business plan in early 2015. This work is

being facilitated by Niagara Connects, with funding support from the Niagara Southwest Health Link.

In the upcoming weeks we will be reaching out to ask you to help us gather information for the *Getting There* business plan. The following documents, published in the fall of 2014 by the Rural Ontario Institute, and posted on the Niagara Knowledge Exchange www.niagaraknowledgeexchange.com (NKE), provide relevant background information:

- [Towards Coordinated Rural Transportation: A Resource Document](#)
- [Accelerating Rural Transportation Solutions: Ten Community Case Studies from Ontario](#)

All of this information is highlighted in a blog post entitled "[Building the Getting There Business Plan](#)" and can be shared with your own internal and external partners to let them know about this exciting work.

Please contact us with any questions you may have about the *Getting There* initiative.

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