



**Northwestern  
Health Unit**

[www.nwhu.on.ca](http://www.nwhu.on.ca)

For Immediate Release  
January 9, 2012

### **Challenges and Opportunities - What are the Social Determinants of Health?**

The Northwestern Health Unit is releasing a report today about the social determinants of health and how they affect the health of residents of the Kenora and Rainy River Districts.

Determinants of health are complex interactions between social and economic factors, the physical environment, and individual behaviours that play a key role in determining the health status of individuals, communities and the population as a whole. The social determinants of health are the factors that account for the greatest impact on health, including: income, education, employment, inclusion, and housing.

The report is available online at [www.nwhu.on.ca](http://www.nwhu.on.ca)

-30-

For more information:

James Arthurs, MD MMM  
Medical Officer of Health  
Northwestern Health Unit  
21 Wolsley Street  
Kenora, ON P9N 3W7  
(807) 468-3147 ext. 252