

Creating our Future Together NHH thanks community for broad input into strategic planning process – analysis now under way

Input to inform Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) as it develops new strategic priorities to guide it in the coming years has come from all corners of the communities served.

Thanks to a diverse response to community conversations, individual surveys and meetings with area municipal leaders, partner organizations, and interest groups, NHH has a wealth of input to review.

Titled *Creating our Future Together*, the goal of the collaborative strategic planning process launched in November, 2016, is to develop the roadmap that will guide NHH into the 2020s—through updated mission, vision, values and strategic priorities—while continuously building stronger local hospital services for the patients served.

“As of mid-January we’ve heard from over 450 stakeholders, including staff, physicians, volunteers, community members, patients, caregivers and partners,” said Linda Davis, NHH’s President and CEO. “Facilitated by MacPhie, the agency assisting us in the process, the input has been thoughtful and extremely helpful,” said Davis. “The surveys alone (electronic and print) provided input from more than 200 individuals. We thank all who have taken the time to participate, either in individual surveys or community, group or individual conversations. We also thank the many partners, organizations and individuals in the region who have helped us to gather this interest.”

The NHH Board will now turn to analyzing the input received, combine it with a recent environmental scan commissioned with regional partners to obtain key facts such as trends in patient needs and volumes, and begin drafting the new plan to meet the needs, opportunities and challenges expressed while sustaining key strengths.

The next stage in the *Creating our Future Together* process is a Board working session with area partners later this month where key themes will be identified and explored based on information gathered. A second phase of community engagement is anticipated to validate these themes.

NHH is working toward a finished 2017-2020 Strategic Plan by April of this year. Further updates will be provided via the hospital’s communication channels.

Questions? Please visit www.nhh.ca or contact Jennifer Gillard, Director, Communications and Community Engagement, at 905-377-7757 or jgillard@nhh.ca.

Third Obstetrician-Gynecologist joins NHH, bringing new laparoscopic surgery expertise and building local obstetrical capacity

Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) is very pleased to welcome **Dr. Nasser Abu Awad** to its growing team of medical specialists.

With more than three decades of medical expertise spanning primary care, research and teaching, Dr. Abu Awad—one of three Obstetrician-Gynecologists now serving patients at NHH, together with Dr. Michael Green and Dr. Asiya Hameed—is a welcome complement to the hospital and the community. In addition to bringing new expertise in minimally invasive laparoscopic gynecological surgery, Dr. Abu Awad brings specialized training in pregnancy care and delivery as well as added infertility expertise.

With NHH since October, 2016, Dr. Abu Awad has seen first-hand the benefits of the generosity NHH enjoys from the community it serves. Responding to his need for specific equipment to build NHH’s laparoscopic service, the NHH Foundation’s 2016 Gala succeeded in raising the necessary funds for the highly specialized tools that will be put into service this winter.

Referrals to Dr. Abu Awad are now being accepted through local family physicians or specialists. For further information, please see the related news release at www.nhh.ca.



New Patient and Family Advisory Council established



(L-R) **Bill Bachellier, David Harnden, Barry Vail, Mary McLeod, Jayne Crompton, William Prawecki and Elizabeth Dickson** are local residents who are now volunteers on NHH’s inaugural Patient and Family Advisory Council.

“Engagement at NHH takes many forms,” said Linda Davis, NHH President and CEO. “The creation of this Council provides one more opportunity for NHH to achieve its goal of continuously making improvements to the planning, delivery and evaluation of care, and we thank all those who expressed interest in participating.”

For more information on the Council and its work please see the related news release on www.nhh.ca.