



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS  
HOSPITAL

• keeping you  
**in touch**  
WITH YOUR COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

**NHH Board of Directors**  
Next Meeting  
Thursday, March 25, 6:00 PM,  
Education Centre, NHH

## WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT CARES ABOUT THE FUTURE OF NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL.

### WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THE FACTS.

Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) is a jewel, created by the goodwill and generosity of our community. In return, you expect quality health services delivered close to home. This is the promise we are working to keep.

Given the strong relationship that our Hospital enjoys with its community, the Board took the necessary time over the past year to complete extensive internal and public consultations.

Hospital boards face a tremendous challenge to meet their legal responsibilities to balance the budget while protecting essential health services. This has become even more difficult over the past year because of the economic downturn.

A strong consensus emerged: NHH must focus its attention and resources on providing a comprehensive basket of high-quality, acute care patient services.

### THE 2010/11 BUDGET AND SERVICE PLAN WILL:

#### SECURE OUR HOSPITAL'S FUTURE BY DEFINING OUR CORE SERVICES

We've worked too hard to build this hospital to jeopardize its future. We are an acute care community hospital that offers you and your family the best local care in times of crisis and serious illness. The Plan ensures the vast majority of the services offered today continue into the future, preserving diagnostic imaging, maternity services, cancer treatments, surgical services, emergency services, dialysis and palliative care among many others.

#### BALANCE OUR BUDGET AND MAINTAIN LOCAL CONTROL

Ontario hospitals that fail to balance their budgets risk losing their independence to a provincially appointed supervisor. We believe a local solution is the best solution. **This Plan addresses the deficit and the accumulated debt, and will balance the NHH budget within one year.** The Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN)—the government body that funds NHH—has given our Hospital a clean bill of health. NHH is lean and efficient in all areas, including administration and management. On March 16, the Central East LHIN approved the Plan in full.

#### ENHANCE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF OUR ACUTE CARE SERVICES

Quality and patient safety will not be compromised by this Plan. We are committed to only providing those services which we can afford to provide to the highest standard. We have cut costs while meeting or exceeding provincial standards for efficiency, wait times, quality and safety of patient care. Our Plan will continue to maintain or improve on this excellent performance. For services that will be no longer provided, alternative health service providers are available or new solutions will be implemented to ensure the continuity of patient care. We have received commitments from both the Central East LHIN and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in this regard. In the event that those commitments are not delivered – we will adjust the Plan accordingly.

#### ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OUR HOSPITAL IS PART OF A LARGER SYSTEM

Today's hospitals work within a larger health care system. NHH is not the single source of health services in west Northumberland—nor should it be. Coordination between health service providers is essential to ensure quality of care and health system affordability. This Plan includes a comprehensive, system-wide approach to addressing one of our biggest challenges: Alternative Level of Care patients. These are patients who have completed their treatment, but are in the Hospital awaiting transfer into the community—usually a long-term care bed. The Plan includes changes within the Hospital, but it also includes the addition of new long-term beds in the community.

Like any organization, NHH must adapt and respond to new changes in technology, medical advances, and community needs. And it must do so in a manner that is financially responsible, while enhancing quality and patient safety. This Plan achieves all of the above. To learn more about the Plan and the *Shared Challenge, Shared Solution* initiative that shaped it, please visit the Hospital website at [www.nhh.ca](http://www.nhh.ca) or contact Jennifer Gillard, Director, Communications and Community Engagement (905-377-7757 or [jgillard@nhh.ca](mailto:jgillard@nhh.ca)) or Robert Biron, President and CEO (905-377-7755 or [rbiron@nhh.ca](mailto:rbiron@nhh.ca))

Sincerely,

*John Hudson, Chair, NHH Board of Directors*  
*Robert Biron, President and CEO*