

Health Professions Scholarship recipients announced

Congratulations to local students **Charlotte Ley** (left) and **Kelsey Elchuk**, recipients of NHH's 2015 Health Professions Scholarships.

The awards were presented by **Jack Russell**, the Chair of NHH's Board of Directors, at the May Board meeting. For details, including information on the deadline for next year's award, please see the related news release on nhh.ca.



Update - NHH Operational Review Message from Linda Davis, NHH President and CEO

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for Northumberland Hills Hospital's External Operational Review has been posted on merx.com.

The review, selection, and appointment of successful proponents will be led by the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN), with NHH coordinating the RFP process. The closing date and time for proposals is June 9, 2015, 16:00 EDT. As stipulated by Ontario's public procurement standards and hospital policy, all potential respondents must go to merx.com to receive the RFP. Successful respondents are expected to be identified by the Central East LHIN in June with the operational review beginning on-site at NHH shortly after.

As described in the motion related to NHH's Operational Review and passed by the LHIN Board on February 25, the purpose of the external review is to "facilitate the development of a satisfactory Improvement Plan [which will] assure the sustainable provision of appropriate and accessible high-quality acute care services in the context of the local health system, local strategic aims and priorities, applicable provincial legislation, and Health System Funding Reform." Further, the review—which will examine NHH's financial management practices, clinical services and operations, clinical quality, integration and governance oversight—will be "comprehensive, evidence-based, implementable, and in the best interests of Central East LHIN residents."

For additional context on the NHH Operational Review process please see the dedicated LHIN webpage at <http://www.centraleastlhin.on.ca/accountability/performance/NHHExternalOperationalReview.aspx>. For further background on NHH's financial challenges, and steps taken to date, please see nhh.ca.

Updates will follow as the process moves forward. Questions? Please contact Jennifer Gillard (NHH) at 905-377-7757 or jgillard@nhh.ca or Katie Cronin-Wood (Central East LHIN) at 905-427-5497 ext. 218 or katie.croninwood@lhins.on.ca.

NHH closes fiscal year in the black

When published next month in the Annual Report to the Community, NHH's Audited Annual Financial Statement for 2014/15 will show a net surplus from operations of \$1,319,051, comprised of a surplus of \$896,151 plus \$422,900 in Working Funds Deficit Initiative funding. Per NHH's agreement with the province, this surplus cannot be carried forward to future years, it must be put toward debt.

Bill Gerber, Chair of the NHH Board's Finance and Audit Committee, explained at the May 7th open Board meeting that this operating surplus was made possible by over \$2 million in one-time, non-recurring revenue and funding that was flowed to NHH late in the last quarter of the fiscal year.

Without this one-time revenue and funding, NHH would have incurred an operating deficit of \$771,024—an amount comparable to management's prediction in the fall of 2014.

NHH is recognized as an efficient hospital but significant pressures, including activity and acuity increases in the Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit, and the local impact of Ontario's Health System Funding Reform, are proving very challenging.

The Operational Review referenced in the related article, left, is expected to shed further light on the pressures and possible opportunities at NHH as the hospital works with the Central East LHIN to meet its obligation to balance its operating budget while ensuring a strong, stable, sustainable hospital that efficiently provides high-quality patient services close to home.

Coming to the hospital or bringing a loved one? Don't forget the medications

The health care team at NHH reminds all area residents to bring their medications with them when they come to the hospital for care. This is true if you—or a loved one—are visiting NHH's Emergency Department or if you are coming for a planned procedure, such as day-surgery in one of NHH's many outpatient clinics. When collecting the medications, be sure to include:

- prescriptions;
- over-the-counter medications;
- vitamins; and
- natural health products, such as herbs or supplements.



Having the ability to review each patient's medication history, including details like dosage and frequency, is a key step for the team, both in the Emergency Department and on admission. Gathering that history can be challenging when individuals present without their medications or a full understanding of what they take and when.

Thank you in advance for helping us help you and those you care for.



Sign up for *In Touch*, your NHH e-newsletter at nhh.ca - it's free and it's delivered straight to your email inbox on the day of release!