

## Central East LHIN Board approves coach to review financial challenges at NHH and ensure sustainability

The Board of Directors of the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) has approved Northumberland Hills Hospital's recommendation for a third-party review of the hospital's ongoing financial challenges.

The motion, passed at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Board in Ajax, reads as follows:

*Be it resolved that the Central East LHIN Board approve Northumberland Hills Hospital to obtain a coach to review its current situation and provide the Hospital with an accurate depiction of its current financial position, including any suggested actions to address financial pressures, which ensures sustainability of the organization going forward.*

*And further be it resolved that the Northumberland Hills Hospital Report be presented to the Board in January 2015.*

The Central East LHIN has worked closely with NHH to support its annual goal of balanced operating budgets—now an expectation of the hospital's service accountability agreement. In the seven fiscal years since the LHIN assumed funding responsibility for health service providers in Ontario (2007/08), NHH has incurred four deficits and three surpluses in its operations.

For the current fiscal year ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015, NHH is projecting a significant operating shortfall of approximately \$1.45 million against a budget of \$65 million (approximately 2 percent).

"Increased patient activity, acuity and capacity surges, as well as patient transportation costs and inflationary pressures, are key factors," explained President and CEO Linda Davis, in her October 22<sup>nd</sup> presentation to the LHIN Board. "Despite everyone's hard work, and the continued commitment to 'hold the line,' we have a significant gap between the funding we are currently receiving and the costs we are facing to meet rising patient demand and other pressures."

LHIN Senior Management underscored NHH's efforts in recent years to find efficiencies and maintain core services. Also highlighted for the Board were the pressures facing the hospital, namely demographic trends and the unique challenges of mid-sized urban/rural hospitals that serve as the single acute care hospital for their community.

"NHH has demonstrated a strong track record in increasing efficiencies, maintaining acute services, and improving clinical and operational services," said Deborah Hammons, CEO, Central East LHIN. "From a quality perspective, NHH has improved on its previous accreditation score of 97% (in 2010) by meeting 98% of the 1,734 standards reviewed by Accreditation Canada in March 2014. Notwithstanding NHH's quality and operational improvements, the Central East LHIN is concerned about NHH's long-term financial health, its ability to continue to deliver quality and accessible care, and to continue to support the growing level of services with its current base budget."

"We were very pleased to see the LHIN's acknowledgement of our pressures and approval of our recommendation for an objective, third-party review," said Jack Russell, NHH Board Chair. "Our Board and management team see this as a positive development. The service changes we made three years ago provided us with a clear focus on acute care, and we firmly believe that the current service offering is what residents of our catchment area require to meet their acute health care needs; any significant reduction to those services could have a serious effect on the stability of our hospital. Having said this, we look forward to any observations, advice and recommendations that the incoming coach(es) may provide to us in the coming weeks to assist us in our quest for sustainability. Furthermore, we look forward to continued collaboration with the Central East LHIN to support us in our goal of providing excellent acute care services to west Northumberland."

NHH will be issuing an invitational call for a coach or coaching team to begin work on the review this fall. It is the LHIN's expectation that findings from the review will be brought back to NHH and the LHIN Board early in January. For a full copy of NHH's presentation to the LHIN Board, and further details on the review process, please see the related news release on [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca).

## Ebola information and related link at [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca)

New protocols have been put in place at NHH to protect the health of patients, visitors, staff, physicians and volunteers in the event a patient comes to NHH with symptoms consistent with Ebola. Enhanced screening at the triage desk in the Emergency Department, enhanced isolation protocols, and enhanced protocols for the wearing of personal protective equipment (e.g. gowns, gloves, etc.) are among the changes now in place. Ebola is a rare and deadly disease that broke out in West Africa in March 2014 and has since become the most complex outbreak of its kind since the virus was discovered in the mid-1970s.

While Canada has yet to see any confirmed cases, as with all our infection prevention and control planning, we are taking Ebola preparedness very seriously. For details, including travel advisories and links to Ebola information being shared by Public Health Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Health and the HKPR District Health Unit, please see the Public Notice on [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca).

## Get the flu shot, not the flu!



NHH's annual flu campaign is under way with more than 30% of staff already vaccinated, including President and CEO Linda Davis, shown getting her shot from NHH Infection Control Practitioner Denise Kearsey. The flu shot is the most effective way to protect you and your family from influenza this winter and now is the time to get your shot! For information on local flu shots clinics, contact your family physician, your pharmacy or the HKPR District Health Unit. Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the flu shot, will also be found on the HKPR website, [hkpr.on.ca](http://hkpr.on.ca).

## What's your blood type?

Most of us don't know what blood type we carry (A/B/O/AB +/-), or what happens when we give blood, but an event coming up at NHH next month will make it fun and easy to find out.

A team from Canadian Blood Services will be at the hospital on Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM beside the Main Street Bistro inside the front entrance of the hospital. This is your opportunity to become a member of the most important blood type: the type that saves lives!

For more details see the related news release on [nhh.ca](http://nhh.ca) or call 905-377-7757. It's in you to give!



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