



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NHH Board endorses Central East LHIN's revised integration strategy - Door opened for innovative health system transformation in Northumberland

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Monday, December 10th, 2012 – On Wednesday, November 28th, the Board of Directors of the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) passed a series of motions at its open meeting that will result in significant changes to the timing, sequencing and scope of their integration strategy.

The original integration strategy was first approved by the Central East LHIN Board in February of this year and focused more broadly on what was described by the LHIN as the North East Cluster (Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough and Northumberland).

“It was the view of the NHH Board that an integration of this magnitude risked failure due to its size and complexity,” said Doug Mann, NHH Board Chair. “The LHIN recognized this as well and chose instead to focus efforts on local communities.”

The Central East LHIN is now proceeding with a revised three-area integration strategy that focuses on:

- 1) Haliburton County/City of Kawartha Lakes;
- 2) Peterborough City and County; and
- 3) Northumberland County.

The Northumberland component will include the facilitated integration of two hospitals (Northumberland Hills Hospital and Campbellford Memorial Hospital) as well as the community agencies Community Care Northumberland, Port Hope Community Health Centre and Campbellford Memorial Multicare Lodge. No decisions about implementation have been made. Discussions to develop a plan will commence in January 2013.

At a subsequent meeting of the Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) Board of Directors on Thursday, December 6th, a motion was passed unanimously endorsing the LHIN's new direction as being consistent with the NHH Board's own commitments to:

- Protect and enhance local access to essential acute care services in Northumberland;
- Explore the creation of an integrated health care model that is geographically aligned to the community of Northumberland, and includes hospitals, community agencies and primary care;

- Participate as an equal partner to create a new governance structure to support the integrated model;
- Advocate for funding to sustain local health services during the transformation period;
- Complete a thorough due diligence process with our health services partners and the Central East LHIN to ensure the objectives are attainable; and
- Engage our community throughout the process to ensure the best possible decisions are made and public trust in our hospital continues to grow.

“We look forward to the opportunity to work with the LHIN, our partners and community to create a bold new vision for local health services in Northumberland,” said Robert Biron, President and CEO of Northumberland Hills Hospital. “Through successes like our Alternative Level of Care strategy and the recently announced Partners Advancing Transitions in Healthcare (PATH) project, Northumberland is demonstrating that we can be stronger together. We have a unique opportunity to build on our successes to create a Northumberland-made solution to health system transformation. We can sustain and enhance local access to services, improve patient outcomes and bend the cost curve in health care expenditures. This is not only possible, it is essential. Otherwise, it is conceivable that local health services could shift outside our community, either in delivery, governance or both.”

“It is the unanimous view of our Board that this significant LHIN development is good news for the Northumberland community,” added Doug Mann, NHH Board Chair. “The new approach is aligned with the NHH Board’s preference for a distinct Northumberland community solution to health system reform. It takes into account the new Health Links initiative, recently announced by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, which focuses on the creation of community networks.”

Further context on the Central East LHIN’s Community Health Services Integration Strategy is available on the Central East LHIN website at www.centraleastlhin.on.ca.

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About Northumberland Hills Hospital – Located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto, Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) delivers a broad range of acute, post-acute, outpatient and diagnostic services. Acute services include emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, and obstetrical care. Post-acute specialty services (PASS) include restorative care, rehabilitation and palliative care. Mental health care, chemotherapy, dialysis and 16 other ambulatory care clinics are offered on an outpatient basis through partnerships with regional centres and nearby specialists. NHH offers a full range of diagnostic services, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT) and mammography. The hospital serves the catchment area of west Northumberland County. A mixed urban and rural population of approximately 60,000 residents, west Northumberland comprises the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs approximately 600 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians and volunteers. NHH is an active member of the Central East Local Health Integration Network. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca.