NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS
HOSPITAL

NEWS RELEASE/FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NHH to fly Black Lives Matter flag for the first time as part of
Black History Month activities**

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Tuesday, January 31, 2023—Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) will commemorate Black History Month by flying a Black Lives Matter flag throughout the month of February.

The move—a first for the hospital—fulfils one of many recommendations, from NHH's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (EDIAC), and was endorsed with unanimous support from the Senior Leadership Team.

Flying now alongside the Canadian flag, the Black Lives Matter flag is one of several activities planned at NHH this month to advance internal conversations, awareness and understanding about systemic Black racism and its harmful impact on the experience of providers, patients, and caregivers alike throughout the broader health care system.

During the month of February, NHH's EDIAC is coordinating a variety of activities for staff, physicians, midwives, and volunteers to explore—through written material, lunch-and-learns, a speaker-led talk by Dr. Roberta Timothy, and training opportunities—timely issues related to Black racism while, at the same time, increasing awareness about the contributions made by Black people to the field of modern medicine.

"NHH's new Shared Purpose is *People First.* To honour this bold statement, we must acknowledge that racism, including Black racism, still exists in everyday life, including the health care sector," said Susan Walsh, President and CEO. "It's critical to recognize the harmful impact that discrimination has on patients, caregivers, and health care providers alike who are marginalized by racism. Dismantling complex racial barriers is very much a work in progress, even in Canada. Flying the Black Lives Matter flag is one of many small steps that NHH is taking to reinforce the point that, like many organizations, we still have work to do before we can say we are truly equitable and inclusive. We are committed to listening, learning, and advocating for the delivery of safe, equitable care for all, and we are grateful to be part of a community that stands united in its commitment to continue working for equity, for all."

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About Northumberland Hills Hospital – Located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto, NHH delivers a broad range of acute, post-acute, outpatient and diagnostic services. Acute services include emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, obstetrical care and palliative care. Post-acute specialty services (PASS) include restorative care and rehabilitation. Mental health care, cancer and supportive care,

dialysis and 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 63,000 residents, west Northumberland comprises the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope, Alderville First Nation and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs more than 700 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians, midwives and volunteers. NHH is an active member of Ontario Health (East)—formerly the Central East Local Health Integration Network—and the Ontario Health Team of Northumberland. For more information, please visit nhh.ca or follow us on Facebook @northumberlandhillshosp or Twitter @NorHillsHosp.

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