



# NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

## NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **DEADLINE EXTENDED** - Call for Interest – NHH Patient and Family Advisory Council *Opportunities Available for Advisors with Experience in Maternal/Child and Surgical Services Care*

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019**—If you or your family member has been a patient at Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) in the past three years, and you're over the age of 18, the hospital would like you to consider joining its growing [Patient and Family Advisory Council \(PFAC\)](#).

The Patient and Family Advisory Council was established at NHH in December 2016 following an open call for interest. Now in its third year, the Council is represented in all core patient care areas, providing valued input to NHH staff, managers, physicians and the Board on a variety of hospital activities, projects and program-focused quality committees.

“The PFAC is one way we are working together with patients and caregivers to continuously enhance the quality of care we can provide,” said Linda Davis, NHH President and CEO. “We’re grateful to the generous volunteers who have stepped forward to share their experience and their wisdom in this capacity. From advice and support with real-time patient experience surveys to co-developing a new patient flow process within post-acute specialty services on our first floor, their impact has been significant and continues to expand.”

Advisors currently serve for a minimum of one and maximum of three years. Specific opportunities currently exist for Patient and Family Advisors with experience in and an interest in enhancing NHH care in two key areas:

- Maternal/Child Care (two opportunities, one on a regional Baby Friendly Initiative—see below--and one focused on NHH's Maternal/Child services); and
- Surgical Services.

Candidates with direct experience either as a patient and/or the family member or caregiver to a patient who received care in these areas at NHH are invited to consider applying.

### **About the PFAC's Baby Friendly Initiative opportunity**

The successful candidate for the Maternal/Child Care opportunity will help support the local development of Ontario's inter-organizational “[Baby Friendly Initiative \(BFI\) Strategy](#),” a project aimed at enhancing breastfeeding across Ontario. When fully implemented, BFI will provide hospitals and community health organizations with training, tools, guidance, and educational resources to help achieve the World Health Organization's BFI designation and adopt best practices that meet BFI requirements. Local women with recent breastfeeding experience

(positive or negative), or local women expecting a baby in the near future and an interest in breastfeeding, are invited to consider applying to be part of the development of the BFI at NHH.

### **About the PFAC's Maternal/Child Services opportunity**

The successful candidate for the Maternal/Child Services opportunity will join the Maternal/Child Quality and Practice Committee. Acting in an advisory capacity to the Maternal/Child Program Director and Medical Director, the Maternal/Child Quality and Practice Committee actively oversees and provides advice and guidance regarding the planning, organization, care delivery and evaluation of NHH's Maternal/Child program.

### **About the PFAC's Surgical Services opportunity**

The successful candidate for the Surgical Services opportunity will join NHH's Surgical Services Quality and Practice Committee. Acting in an advisory capacity to the Surgical Services Program Director and Medical Director, the Surgical Services Quality and Practice Committee actively oversees and provides advice and guidance regarding the planning, organization, care delivery and evaluation of NHH's Surgical program.

Interest from prospective patient and family advisors with experience in other areas of the hospital's services, beyond the current Maternal/Child and Surgical Services openings, will also be considered for future opportunities and special projects.

### **How to express interest?**

Residents of west Northumberland with an interest in volunteering on NHH's Patient and Family Advisory Council are invited to review the **Terms of Reference** and **Role Description** for the **NHH Patient and Family Advisory Council** and complete the **NHH Patient and Family Advisory Council - Expression of Interest Form** available on the Patient and Family Advisory Council Page under the Patients tab of the hospital website at <https://nhh.ca/AboutNHH/Accountability/patient-and-family-advisory-council>. Those who would prefer to receive the Expression of Interest form and background information in print form, please call the NHH Public Affairs office at 905-377-7757.

### **Time commitment**

The Council meets as a group for quarterly meetings lasting two hours each for a minimum of four times per year. In addition to attending these quarterly Advisory Council meetings, Patient/Family Advisors are also expected to participate—as experience/interest directs—on the specific committee and/or project to which they are assigned, requiring additional background reading and meetings ranging between 6-10 times a year.

Completed Expressions of Interest are now requested by **June 7<sup>th</sup> 2019** for consideration in the specific opportunities listed above.

**Questions?** Please contact Jennifer Gillard, Senior Director, Public Affairs and Strategic Partnerships (905-377-7757 or [jgillard@nhh.ca](mailto:jgillard@nhh.ca)).

**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, 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](http://www.nhh.ca) or follow us on Twitter [@NorHillsHosp](https://twitter.com/NorHillsHosp).

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