



# NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

## NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Call for Interest – NHH Patient and Family Advisory Council *Opportunities Available for Advisors with an Interest in Emergency Care and Maternal/Child Care***

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017**—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 **Patient and Family Advisory Council**.

A vehicle to help ensure patient and caregiver perspectives are understood and actively considered throughout NHH, the Patient and Family Advisory Council was established one year ago following an initial call for interest in September, 2016.

Now with seven volunteers and two supporting staff members, the Council is providing input to hospital staff, managers, physicians and the Board on a variety of hospital activities, projects and committees.

“The Advisory Council is one way we are working *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 stepped forward last year to form our inaugural Council and we're pleased to see the opportunities for patient/caregiver input growing further.”

Specific opportunities currently exist for Patient and Family Advisors with experience in and an interest in enhancing NHH services in two key areas:

- Emergency care (one opportunity) and
- Maternal/Child care (two opportunities).

The Emergency care and one of the two Maternal/Child care opportunities will fill existing seats on the hospital's inaugural Patient and Family Advisory Council. 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.

A second Maternal/Child care opportunity is also available. Project specific, the successful candidate for this opportunity will help support the local development of Ontario's inter-organizational “[Baby Friendly Initiative \(BFI\) Strategy](#),” an initiative 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.

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

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

Residents of west Northumberland who are interested in volunteering their time 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 at <https://www.nhh.ca/AboutNHH/Accountability/patient-and-family-advisory-council>. Hard copies of these documents may also be picked up at the Inquiry Desk in the main (front) lobby of the hospital. If you do not have Internet access, and would like to receive an Expression of Interest form in the mail, please call the NHH Administration office at 905-372-6811, ext. 4004.

The Council meets as a group for quarterly meetings a minimum of four times per year. In addition to attending the quarterly Advisory Council meetings, Patient/Family Advisors are also expected to participate—as experience/interest directs—on specific committees and/or projects requiring additional meetings ranging between 6-10 times a year.

Completed Expressions of Interest are requested by **January 5<sup>th</sup> 2018** for consideration in the specific opportunities now available.

**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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