



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coaching team selected to review financial challenges, ensure sustainability of Northumberland Hills Hospital

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Monday, December 1st, 2014—A third-party review of Northumberland Hills Hospital's ongoing financial challenges is one step closer to completion following the selection of the coaching team.

Five candidates who met the criteria received the hospital's November 7th invitational call for proposals and, of those, three submitted formal proposals. The successful candidates are **JD & Associates** led by Janice Dusek, and supported by Norman Rees and Zenita Hirji. This three-person team brings a high level of health system funding expertise, clinical knowledge and hands-on experience working in and with medium-sized hospitals.

NHH's first on-site meeting with JD and Associates has been scheduled for this Thursday, December 4th. This is expected to be the first of many meetings for the team to collect information and review NHH's funding challenges and clinical realities.

A Steering Committee has been formed to support the coaching process and receive the coaching team's recommendations. On the Committee are NHH Board directors and members of the Board's Finance and Audit Committee John Hudson and Bill Gerber, the NHH senior management team, physician representatives Dr. Mukesh Bhargava and Dr. David Broderick as well as Stewart Sutley, representing the Central East LHIN. The Committee expects to have the coaching team's findings and recommendations in hand early in the New Year.

For the current fiscal year ending March 31st, 2015, NHH is projecting a significant operating shortfall of approximately \$1.45 million against a budget of \$65 million (approximately 2 percent). 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. Balanced operating budgets are an expectation of each Ontario hospital's service accountability agreement.

"Increased patient activity, acuity and capacity surges, as well as patient transportation costs and inflationary pressures, are key pressures for us," explained President and CEO Linda Davis, in her October 22nd presentation to the LHIN Board where the proposal to seek third-party insight was approved.

"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."

In late October, in approving NHH to initiate the review, the LHIN had acknowledged NHH's efforts in recent years to find efficiencies and maintain core services. It had also recognized 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.

“We are pleased to see that Northumberland Hills Hospital has secured a qualified coaching team to carry out this important work. The Central East LHIN looks forward to receiving the team’s recommendations early in the new year regarding how the hospital might improve its short- and long-term financial outlook in the face of rising patient needs,” said Deborah Hammons, CEO, Central East LHIN.

For further details please see NHH’s related news release, “*Central East LHIN approves coach to review financial challenges, ensure sustainability of the organization going forward,*” released October 30th 2014, and archived on www.nhh.ca.

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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, 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 or follow us on Twitter [@NorHillsHosp](https://twitter.com/NorHillsHosp).

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