

# Deep River and District Health Board Highlights February 2025

#### **Board**

- Education Privacy and Freedom of Information Kathryn Frelick, Partner, Miller Thomson LLP
  - The Board received a presentation on Privacy and Freedom of Information by Kathryn Frelick, Partner, Miller Thomson LLP. The education session provided an overview of understanding the Board's obligations under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).
- The Board's Nominating Committee is undertaking initial planning for the 2025-2026 Board Year, with a review of current Director's terms and intentions to renew to support with planning for an upcoming recruitment cycle. The Nominating Committee consists of Doug Tennant as Chair, Janna Hotson, and a number of additional community member representatives that support selection of Board members.
- The Board of Directors, through the Resource and Audit Committee, received a report on the
  performance of the organization as of the end of Q3. With an increase in Ministry of Health
  (MOH) funding for the hospital, the organization remains in a slight surplus position as of the
  end of December 2024. Ongoing monitoring of increasing staffing costs and challenges
  continues, with the goal to ensure stable staffing base for the organization while supporting the
  current workforce.

## **Capital Development:**

- Through the Board's Capital Development Committee, the Board received a report from both
  the Primary Care Capital Development Project as well as the Long-Term Care Capital
  Development Project. It was shared that both projects remain on track, with some minor delays
  on the Long-Term Care project due to the extensive site preparation work required.
  - Primary Care Capital Development The Primary Care Capital Development project continues to consistently advance within budget and on schedule. Construction progress is currently at 80% completion, with the 'take over' date of May 30, 2025 remaining on track. Brick work on the exterior of the building is nearing completion, with siding beginning before the end of February. Interior work is progressing well, with rough-ins completed and inspected, and drywall work well underway. It was shared that interim measures are being put in place for the spring thaw, while the final stormwater pond design on neighbouring property remains underway.
  - Long- Term Care Capital Development- Construction continues on the new LTC building. Construction progress is currently at 15% completion, which is behind the scheduled 20% at this time due to partially unforeseen site conditions. As such, the 'take over' date has been moved by 3 months to March 2027. Phase 3 of the foundation walls was completed, with concrete work continuing for the remainder of the month including formworks and pouring of the elevator shaft. Intermittent rock-breaking will continue for the next few weeks to support attachment of the main water line to the new building.

## **Foundation**

• The annual Bonspiel and Breakfast event is coming up on March 1, 2025. The day will kick-off with a hearty breakfast at 8:00 am at the Deep River Legion, courtesy of the DRDH dietary team. Curling starts at 9:00 am at the Deep River Curling & Squash Club, and at 4:00 pm the event will transition to a trivia and pizza night. All proceeds from the event will be directed to the Closer to Home campaign.

## **Health Campus Updates**

## Accessibility

The organization received notice that it had been selected for an Accessibility for Ontarian's
with Disability (AODA) audit. The organization reviewed and gathered evidence to demonstrate
compliance with the legislation, and submitted this to the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility
as requested by the due date. No areas of non-compliance were identified in the self-review,
and following the submission a Senior Compliance Analyst with the Ministry will review the
documentation submitted.

## **Building Updates**

• On-site work for both the Sprinkler System installation project and the Nurse Call system upgrade will begin in March, with finalized plans now received.

## **Emergency Department**

• Following feedback from the Emergency Department (ED) Team, finalization of designs for the ED Modernization project are underway, and expected for final approval in late March.

#### Family Health Team

 Planning is underway with the Family Health Team on hosting cancer screening clinics for unattached patients. It is planned that the first clinic will take place this spring, with the goal to offer clinics on a regular basis going forward.

#### Human Resources

The organization held its first Leadership Development Institute of the year in early February, with guests in attendance from pflag Renfrew County, a charitable organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for 2SLGBTQ+ people and those who love them. Guests from pflag shared lived experiences and discussed planning for actions on the organization's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism multi-year plan.

#### Long-Term Care

 The Four Seasons Lodge welcomed local dignitaries for a recognition ceremony for resident William (Bill) Crowshaw, who received the King Charles III Coronation Medal. Family, friends and other residents were welcomed to celebrate with Bill as he was recognized for his achievements and community service.

#### Medical Inpatient Unit

- The Medical Inpatient Unit census has been operating at or above 100% since late December, with 30-60% of patients currently identified as Alternative Level of Care (ALC) or of long-stay. Discharge planning coordination and support continue to address increased inpatient need and challenges with ALC allocations.
- Multiple hospitals across the region, including The Ottawa Hospital, continue to experience
  occupancy crises due to demand for inpatient and acute care beds throughout the province
  exceeding availability provincially. Work to continue to support repatriations and patient flow
  throughout the region continues, with the goal to minimize impact on patients and care.

#### Quality

• The organization has launched the annual review of the Risk Assessment Checklists, provided by the Healthcare Insurance Reciprocal of Canada (HIROC). Through this process, the organization assesses itself against mitigation measures identified by HIROC for the most likely and impactful insurance claims. Annually, three top risks are identified for priority action that align with the likelihood and impact of a potential claim, as well as priorities identified in the strategic and operational plan.