



Board

- The Board officially appointed community members to its 2024-2025 Nominating Committee, standing up the committee for recruitment for the 2025-2026 Board year. The Nominating Committee will be looking to recruit Patient/Resident Representatives, as well as members of the Patient and Family Advisory Council.
- The Board, through the Strategic Planning & Relationships Committee, received the results of the Community Engagement & Needs Assessment project undertaken by the organization in 2024, as well as a report on the results of a Population Health Analysis aiming to identify areas of population health need in the community. Both reports reviewed data gathered from the community as well as provincially collected data to identify need for health services and community supports in Deep River and District Health (DRDH)'s catchment area, both today and into the future. The Board reviewed the results from both reports, and will explore feasibility of key areas identified in order to determine opportunities for future growth and development at the DRDH health campus.

Capital Development:

- Through the 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 construction work well underway and progress at both sites.
 - Primary Care Capital Development - Progress continues on schedule for the Family Health Team building. Exterior work is progressing, with siding 50% completed. Interior work is progressing well, with painting and flooring now underway. 'Ready for take over' date remains May 30, 2025 with plans underway for a Grand Opening mid-June as well as the First Patient Day.
 - Functional programming and operationalization planning are being finalized with the project team, which have resulted in a number of minor change orders to adjust the functioning of the building with evolving need. Equipment and furniture purchases are being finalized, with the goal to purchase by the end of March. Occupancy Plan and Functional Programming were presented at the Capital Development Committee in March.
 - Long-Term Care Capital Development - Construction continues on the new Long-Term Care (LTC) home, with foundation walls completed and the final concrete pour for the elevator shaft planned for this month. Rock-breaking continues intermittently, with the goal to connect the main water main to the site by mid-April. Emergency plans were put in place to mitigate impact from spring thaw and rainwater melt to surrounding properties and trails, with long-term planning for solutions continuing with the project team and partners. The LTC construction schedule has been extended by three months because of unanticipated extra work undertaken to address bedrock removal. Opportunities to recover the schedule exist in the remaining project.

Foundation

- The Foundation held another successful Bonspiel and Breakfast event on Saturday, March 1, 2025. The event raised just over \$12,000 for the Closer to Home campaign and also included a pizza and trivia night. The DRDH Dietary Department held a French Toast Breakfast on March 1 as part of the fundraiser, welcoming many curlers and community members.

- Registration is now open for the Run for Home, which is coming up on the morning of Saturday, June 28, 2025.

Health Campus Updates

Accountability Agreements

- The Hospital Service Accountability Agreement and the Long-Term Care Service Accountability Agreement extensions have been signed and returned to Ontario Health. The extensions cover the 2025-2026 fiscal year, extending the current Service Agreements.

Building Updates

- Work to install an organization-wide sprinkler system is now underway, with the majority of work taking place after-hours to minimize impacts on staff and patients.

Community Engagement

- The CEO participated in a Lunch and Learn session with the Seniors Friendship Club, sharing a presentation on functionalities of MyChart and Epic. Feedback was received on the functionality of Epic and access of information from patients that has benefited many in the community.
- Three high school co-op students from Mackenzie Community School are currently participating in placements throughout DRDH. Students will rotate throughout clinical departments in order to gain greater exposure to healthcare and support exploration of different careers.

Diagnostic Imaging

- Staffing challenges in our Diagnostic Imaging department have resulted in a temporary closure of ultrasound services. These staffing challenges are related to an approved leave and inability to recruit a sonographer. Notice of the temporary ultrasound closure has been shared with physicians and our partner hospitals.

Emergency Response

- A planning meeting was held with the Deep River Fire Chief to review plans for occupancy and emergency response in the new Primary Care Building. Plans will be shared, and ongoing engagement over the next three months until occupancy will support review of emergency response plans for the campus, as well as table-top exercises to test the adjusted response plans.

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

- Planning for the annual Employee Recognition Event is well underway, with a date in April selected. Employee service milestones will be celebrated, and the organization's peer recognition award, the Essential Pieces Award, will be presented.
- The management team has begun participation in a three-part series of formal Management Training, with the first session held in March. An external facilitator will be hosting the sessions, following a program designed specifically for the DRDH team. The goal is to support

both new and experienced managers with tools and knowledge to support teams across the organization, as well as to align management practices and expectations.

Long-Term Care

- The Four Seasons Lodge has been identified to participate in Phase 1 of the provincial transition to the updated interRAI assessment. Work to transition the standardized assessment tool will occur between April to June, with teams currently being coordinated to support the project. The new interRAI assessment will replace the current RAI 2.0 which is completed quarterly for all residents, and which FSL receives adjusted funding for its nursing envelope based on the outcomes of assessments.

Medical Inpatient Unit

- Census on the Medical Inpatient Unit has dropped below 100% capacity for the first time in several months. It was noted that approximately 50% of our current population are designated as Alternate Level of Care (ALC) patients awaiting placement in long-term care. A Social Worker has been added to the Medical Inpatient team as a resource, and it is anticipated that this additional support will help our ability to discharge patients home to await long-term care placement.

Quality

- The Board approved the organization's annual Quality Improvement Plan for 2025-2026. Indicators in the upcoming year's plan focus on equity and timeliness of access, safety of patients and staff, and patient-centered experience. Activities for 2025-2026 for the organization to improve the specific areas of focus include non-violent crisis intervention, diversity, equity, and inclusion education for team members, work to support meaningful resident recreation activities, and implementation of enhanced discharge supports on the Medical Inpatient Unit.

Workplace Wellness

- In collaboration with the organization's Employee and Family Assistance Program, an employee Wellness Survey is currently underway. The survey, delivered through Manulife and supported by Deloitte, will provide employees who opt to participate with an individual wellness report as well as an aggregated organizational report for leadership. The finalized report will be assessed for potential actions and additional supports, with actions to be included in the 2025-2026 operational plan.