

February 17, 2015

To: Muskoka Mayors, their Councils and our Communities

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to comment on the long-term planning process underway at Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC). This process is part of a commitment to ensure a sustainable future over a 50-year timeframe, and to meet requirements of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The Board has directed the MAHC administration to develop this future vision. An internal working group of clinicians and staff continues to examine all options before we seek community input that will inform the best recommendation to the Board.

No decisions about the future service delivery model have been made by the working group or the Board. We tried to address misinformation in the community and met with all five Muskoka mayors and the District Chair on January 14 to ensure they are up to date on the planning process, and so they could help us share that message with their councils and constituents. This update to our leaders and many other updates are on our website at www.mahc.ca/planning-for-the-future. As well, our CEO, Natalie Bubela, has spoken at several service clubs and other local organizations, has written blog posts, and answered countless media requests and interviews.

We very much want to have open and effective dialogue with our communities, but we are concerned that our message has not been as effective as we would have liked. To ensure that our communities have the right information, and to prevent undue concern and anxiety, we have reached out to seek some additional assistance to help facilitate our communication.

MAHC is committed to public engagement throughout this process. Further to the six public information sessions in 2014, more are scheduled in March. The Board of Directors welcomes all constructive input, including petitions, to help inform the final report that will be brought to the Board recommending the future model of health care in Muskoka.

These will not be easy decisions, and the Board takes this responsibility very seriously. We thank you for your involvement in this process. Your support will help us make the best decision for the future.



Charles Forret
Chair, Board of Directors

cc: Muskoka CAOs

www.mahc.ca

Huntsville District Memorial Hospital Site
100 Frank Miller Drive,
Huntsville, Ontario P1H 1H7
Tel: 705-789-2311 Fax: 705-789-0557

South Muskoka Memorial Hospital Site
75 Ann Street,
Bracebridge, Ontario P1L 2E4
Tel: 705-645-4400 Fax: 705-645-4594