



CARLETON PLACE & DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

SIXTY YEARS OF CARING ... AND WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

DATE: August 21, 2015

### **CPDMH CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT DATE**

After 35 years as a respected health care professional, including five years as CPDMH's CEO, Toni Surko has announced her decision to retire at the end of August 2016.

"My time at CPDMH has been incredible and I am very proud of the work we have accomplished together," says Surko. "I've been planning my retirement and I want to give the Board a generous notice period for the complex task of CEO search and recruitment."

"The hospital is on stable ground financially and our quality is second to none. We have continually enhanced services provided to the community and demonstrated our ability to rise to challenges, adapt to change and forge new innovative solutions. I am looking forward to working with the Board, staff and physicians over the next year to ensure a successful transition. After that, I am also looking forward to retirement and spending more time with my family and friends."

Toni has worked at CPDMH for 11 years and was recruited to the role of CEO from the hospital's nursing administration. Under Toni's guidance, the hospital has posted exemplary standings in both safety and quality. Services to the hospital have been enhanced including the adoption of an electronic health record this year. Toni is Chair of the Champlain Alliance of Small Hospitals, a voluntary alliance of small hospital leaders in the LHIN who have come together to improve health service delivery in rural communities. Perhaps most importantly, Toni has worked extensively with community partners to envision and plan for CPDMH's redevelopment, including current plans to build a new Emergency Department. The goal is to reduce health care gaps and improve patient experience and outcomes.

Toni began her career in 1980 and worked as a clinical nurse for six years. For the past 29 years, she has held leadership positions as a nursing supervisor, manager of acute and community-based services, long-term care administrator and CEO of CPDMH.

Over the next year, Toni will continue to work with the Board, staff and physicians, leading the roll-out of CPDMH's strategic goals. These include redevelopment planning, the Accreditation survey in June 2016, continued work toward an integrated electronic medical record and ongoing partnerships with local and regional health care partners.

"While we are sad to say farewell to Toni next year, we are thankful for the leadership that she has provided for more than a decade at CPDMH. Under her leadership, we have a clear plan for continued success in both hospital operations and redevelopment," notes Marcel Pinon, Board Chair.

Theresa Fritz, President of the CPDMH Foundation agrees. "Toni has been a positive link between the foundation and the hospital board of trustees and staff, and she has contributed greatly to furthering the ideal we are all working in the best interests of CPDMH. She has been very supportive of the foundation's work and dedication to raising funds for patient care at the hospital. On behalf of the foundation board, I wish her the best in her upcoming retirement."

"We are going to miss Toni very much," adds Marg Leblanc, CPDMH Auxiliary President. "She is so easy to work with. She has a 'go for it' attitude that supports everything we do as volunteers."

Transition planning is underway. The process will be led by the Governance Committee who will provide due diligence and ensure all options are explored.

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