



CPDMH Board Governance

Q&A Fact Sheet

March 2016

- **What is the latest news on the proposed changes to the CPDMH Board Bylaws?**

The Board of Trustees will vote on the board structure and composition at its meeting on March 30. The process and relevant bylaw articles were discussed in the public portion of the board meeting in February.

Following the Board vote, there will be a CPDMH members' meeting in late April where valid members can also vote on the proposed changes.

- **If the motion is confirmed, can the ex-officios apply to be regular Board members?**

Yes. They can apply to become Board members through the normal application process held each year.

- **What is the role of the CPDMH Board of Trustees?**

The Board's role is to govern and manage the affairs of the hospital. In legal terms, the Board is sometimes described as the "mind and will" of the corporation. Some of the most important governance elements and processes that contribute to effective governance include: composition, size, turnover, nomination and recruitment processes.

- **What changes to the Board are being considered?**

The proposed changes reflect governance best practices concerning board size and composition. The goal is to create a board with diverse and complementary skills. It needs to be large enough to ensure there are sufficient individuals to manage the Board's workload, but not so large as to impede effective discussion.

Any change to Board size and composition would impact the number of ex-officio positions on the Board to better reflect best practice in governance. Ex-officio members are appointed to the Board by virtue of their representation on behalf of another stakeholder group.

Specifically, the four municipal ex-officio positions, which represent Carleton Place, Beckwith and Mississippi Mills and the ex-officio auxiliary position are under discussion. The mandatory ex-officio members - Chief Executive Officer, Chief Nursing Executive, Chief of

the Medical Advisory Committee and Chair of the Medical staff – would remain as non-voting members of the Board.

▪ **Why are these changes being considered?**

There are several reasons for these proposed changes:

- It is important that the Board evaluate its structure and composition and consider whether other levels of engagement might be more appropriate to maintain community relationships.
- The proposed Board structure is best practice governance. In fact, 14 of the 16 acute care hospitals in the Champlain LHIN have moved away from representational members and reduced the size of their Board.
- There is no legal requirement on the number of members that a hospital may have. Both the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors have followed a trend to reduce the size of their Boards.
- Accreditation Canada requires that hospital boards complete an assessment of their structure, including size and committee structure, each year.

▪ **Will CPDMH connect with its local communities in other ways?**

Yes. There are currently several ways that local community members can contribute to CPDMH and new opportunities for community input and engagement are being implemented. CPDMH is committed to meaningful dialogue and connectivity with all of our valued stakeholders.

A few of the options:

- The existing Redevelopment Committee would continue.
- A new Patient & Family Advisory Committee has been created.
- Interest in a new Community Advisory Committee will be assessed.
- CPDMH would welcome opportunities to provide additional updates to the local Councils and will work with them to determine preferred methods of engagement.
- Our new website provides mechanisms for input and feedback.
- The CEO meets with community groups to garner their input on hospital services and planning

There are actually now more opportunities for community involvement in hospital decision-making through these channels.

▪ **Questions?**

Anyone with questions or concerns is also encouraged to contact Toni Surko, CEO at 613-253-3825 or tsurko@cpdmh.ca