



# MEDIA RELEASE

June 27, 2016

## CONNECTING FOR CARE

The Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH) Board held its Annual General Meeting on June 22, 2016. The event focused on the theme of connections – working and learning together to ensure the best and safest care for our local communities.

“Together, as a team – Board, Foundation, Auxiliary, Leadership, Management, Staff, Physicians, Advisory committees and community partners - we have advanced our mission to deliver the highest level of health care,” noted Marcel Pinon, Board Chair.

Several key accomplishments were highlight throughout the evening:

- Working with our community health partners, we are wrapping care around our most vulnerable patients through the Assess and Restore program. We are hearing first hand, the significant difference this is making to the frail elderly in our community.
- Our new Patient and Family Advisory Committee is teaching us valuable lessons about what it's like to be in the bed versus beside it.
- We have created a stronger voice for local health care through the Mississippi River Health Alliance. And we are preparing to welcome a new CEO and Vice President, Operations to be shared with Almonte General Hospital in September.
- We advanced our strategic goal to secure a strong, sustainable future. Working in collaboration with the Champlain LHIN, the Capital Projects committee, the Redevelopment Advisory Committee and the Ministry of Health, we negotiated our way through a Phase One Emergency Department proposal.

In her final AGM report before retirement, CEO Toni Surko noted that life is a gift and it has been a pleasure to work with so many people who are willing to share their gifts and talents every day. “Our corporate values are based on the acronym CARE. At our last strategic planning session, staff insisted that we change the order of that list of values to prioritize compassion and put it as the first value you read.”

Chief of Staff Rob Courchene is completing his current two-year term as Chief of Staff and the 12<sup>th</sup> year as Chief of Staff in his career. He praised the Board of Trustees “who have shown the courage to make several very difficult decisions. These decisions I sincerely believe will serve us well going forward.”

For the third year in a row, CPDMH operated under an environment of fiscal restraint. Despite this challenge, outpatient clinic services were increased and the year ended with a small surplus. “Working together with the Foundation, Auxiliary, the Small, Rural, Northern Transformation Fund and the Champlain Local Health Integration Network, CPDMH invested more than \$1 million to maintain a safe facility, advance the electronic medical record and pharmacy automation implementation, and procure modern, medical equipment for safe patient care,” reported Paul Muysson, Treasurer.

Board Chair Marcel Pinon ended his remarks with a special message regarding retiring CEO Toni Surko: “Toni has provided skilled, compassionate, visionary leadership during her tenure, never wavering on her commitment to ensuring the best patient care and always doing what was necessary to achieve it. And sometimes that hasn’t been easy. As our recent Accreditation results will attest Toni is leaving this hospital in very good shape – from a quality perspective, from a financial perspective, and from the extensive list of services we offer to our local communities. But perhaps most importantly, she has helped to shape a cohesive and talented group of staff, physicians and volunteers who I know will continue her good work and make her proud.”

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