



**Report from Nadine Doucette
Chair, Board of Directors
October 4, 2017**

On Thursday, June 22, 2017, for the first time, the Hospital and its research arm, the Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute, hosted a joint Annual General Meeting. Both the Hospital and the Health Research Institute are focusing priorities on health challenges that most affect the residents of Northwestern Ontario. That focus has been sharpened through collaborations between clinicians at our Hospital, our scientists, and the Institute.

One of the shared priorities of our Hospital and Health Research Institute is a particular focus on improving Indigenous health status disparities. Geographical isolation and socio-economic disadvantages induce health disparities in the 69 Indigenous communities we serve. Speakers at the Annual General Meeting specifically focused on how our scientists and clinicians are connecting with Indigenous communities and their leaders to better address their health needs and expectations. I am grateful to Dr. Sheldon Tobe, Dr. Ingeborg Zehbe, and Chief Peter Collins for sharing their expertise.

At the Inaugural meeting of the Board of Directors, four, three-year term Board of Directors vacancies were filled. Returning to the Board of Directors for three-year terms are John Friday and Grant Walsh. Joining the Board for first time three-year terms are Patricia Lang and Eric Zakrewski. Continuing their terms of office on the Board are Anita Jean, Dick Mannisto, Matt Simeoni, Gary Whitney and myself. The Board includes the following ex-officio Directors:

- Jean Bartkowiak, President and CEO;
- Dr. Rhonda Crocker Ellacott, Chief Nursing Executive;
- Dr. Gordon Porter, Chief of Staff;
- Dr. Penny Moody-Corbett, Associate Dean, Research, Northern Ontario School of Medicine;
- Dr. Mark Thibert, President, Professional Staff Association.

The Officers of the Corporation were elected as follows:

- Chair – Nadine Doucette;
- 1st Vice Chair – Grant Walsh;
- 2nd Vice Chair – Dick Mannisto;
- Treasurer – John Friday.

I look forward to a productive and meaningful year serving with these dedicated people. Our focus is on achieving the Hospital's Mission to provide a quality patient experience in an academic health care environment that is responsive to the needs of the population of Northwestern Ontario.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge that, over the summer, our Hospital experienced high occupancy rates. I commend the staff, physicians, volunteers and leaders for their outstanding efforts to manage patient flow. Under conditions of heightened pressure, they demonstrate every day that they are committed to meeting the acute care needs of the patients of our region. Through their efforts, and by working together with our health system partners, we can persevere through difficult challenges.