

**Report from Nadine Doucette  
Chair, Board of Directors  
February 3, 2016**



Board of Directors

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Obviously, the big news for the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre last month was the arrival of our new President and CEO Jean Bartkowiak. Jean hit the ground running, touring the facility on his first day and meeting with patients and staff. He will be continuing his orientation in the coming weeks to become more familiar with our institution, but his professional experience has him well versed in the challenges the health care system as a whole, and the hospitals operating within it, face. We are very pleased to have Jean here. He brings a background that will help us navigate these challenges and emerge on the other side as a stronger and more robust academic health sciences centre. His success will be our success and we wish him very well in undertaking this new challenge.

We also celebrated another significant achievement last month, the unveiling of our combined heat and power co-generator. This new generator will produce electricity by burning natural gas. Then, the heat recovered from the plant's internal combustion engine is not released into the air as waste, but instead used to produce hot water thereby eliminating the additional use of boilers and fuel. This will save the hospital millions of dollars in energy costs, reduce our carbon footprint by using the cleaner burning natural gas and provide greater security of power supply to our facility and its patients in the case of power outages. We want to thank our partners at Thunder Bay Hydro and the provincial government, particularly our local MPPs Michael Gravelle and Bill Mauro, who supported this project, as well as the dedicated and innovative staff of our own Capital Planning and Operations unit.

Finally, I want to highlight one of the most important events on our calendar, the annual Walk the Talk awards. This event recognizes our many staff, nominated by their peers, who go over and above in delivering care at TBRHSC rooted in our Patient and Family Centred Care philosophy. I have said it many times, our dedicated staff is the key ingredient in delivering the excellent health care we deliver, despite the many challenges they face. It was a pleasure and an honour to put one night aside to recognize the service they deliver every day of the year.

Later that week, also as part of Employee Recognition Week, I was again very pleased to participate in the Long Service Awards, recognizing staff who have worked here from five to 45 years! We know working conditions are demanding, but I am very proud of the record we have of retaining employees for significant, if not entire, lengths of their career. In other excellence in staff news, the Transfusion Services department at TBRHSC was recently praised at a site visit from the Canadian Blood Services and the Ontario Blood Coordinating Network for rating among the best performers in adopting best practices, judicious use of blood products, excellent inventory management and low waste. The Laboratory Services team here accomplishes this despite the challenges of remote geography as the nearest Canadian Blood Services distribution centre is located Winnipeg.

We are a good employer with a dedicated, excellent staff. Thank you all for your contribution to our ongoing success.

We are Healthy Together.

Nadine Doucette, Chair  
Board of Directors