

**Report from Nadine Doucette
Chair, Board of Directors
January 13, 2016**



Board of Directors

healthy
together

980 Oliver Road
Thunder Bay, ON
P7B 6V4

Phone:
684-6007

Website:
www.tbrhsc.net

First off, I hope everyone had a good holiday season and I wish all our staff, volunteers, supporters, and of course patients and families a very happy new year.

It's safe to say we're starting 2016 with a bang. Just before Christmas I announced the long anticipated news of our new President and CEO of Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC) and CEO of Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute (TBRI). We look forward to Jean Bartkowiak assuming his duties on January 25.

We are very excited to have Jean join our team in this critical leadership position.

Jean brings considerable experience to his new task. He has worked in the health sector for more than 30 years, including more than 20 years as a hospital CEO. Most recently, he was Interim President and CEO at Mattawa Hospital and Algonquin Nursing Home.

Before that he spent eight years as President and CEO of Bruyère Continuing Care in Ottawa, one of the largest health care centres of its kind in Canada with specialization in geriatric and palliative care. He also spent three years as CEO of Centre Hospitalier des Vallées de l'Outaouais, where a significant part of the work involved improving patient flow and reducing the number of ALC patients. And he was CEO of Hotel-Dieu d'Arthabaska in Victoriaville, QC for 10 years.

He is familiar with the issues and challenges we face here and is experienced in dealing with them in other jurisdictions. I am very pleased we will have him here working with us at a challenging time for health care, but also a time where there is great opportunity for innovation and transformation.

I know many of our staff met him when he toured the hospital during his brief visit here last month. I ask all of you to join me in welcoming Jean to the team and wishing him well as he takes up this leadership role.

In other good news, our academic health sciences centre was again validated for the good work it does and the way it does it. The most recent Canadian Institute for Health Information update found TBRHSC continues to perform well and remains an efficient hospital.

Our wait time for patients in the Emergency Department is below the provincial average and our Standardized Mortality Ratio is lower than the average Canadian hospital. In addition, CIHI's data shows what we have long known and maintained, that TBRHSC is a highly efficient hospital. Our cost of a Standard Hospital Stay is \$4,477, compared to an average of \$5,283 for other hospitals across Ontario.

There is always room for improvement, however, and the data also indicated we continue to struggle with the Total Time Spent in Emergency Department for Admitted Patients. We have improved in this area, but we still need to continue to work with our partners to address the causes of overcapacity that creates this lag.



All in all, these are good results. They are a testament to the effectiveness of our dedicated, hard-working staff, and a demonstration of our commitment to the patients and families we serve.

Thank you all very much and all the best in 2016.

We are Healthy Together.

Nadine Doucette, Chair
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