



**Report from Nadine Doucette  
Chair, Board of Directors  
February 7, 2018**

Many people whose outstanding dedication and positive attitudes make our Hospital special, and the Walk the Talk Awards recognize their actions. Although I wasn't able to attend the January 22 Walk the Talk Awards celebration, I want to express my appreciation of every nominee and winner, and thank Board Director Gary Whitney for presenting the awards on my behalf.

On that note, the Board of Directors Walk the Talk Award recognizes the outstanding contribution of a team whose members performed their duties in an exemplary manner under extraordinary circumstances or have demonstrated excellence in achievement, innovation or service. This year's recipient of the Award is the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit (CAMHU) team. The CAMHU team has recently been faced with a significant increase in youth presenting in mental health crisis. The team is honoured this year for demonstrating immense commitment to their patients and their families. Mental Health care is definitely a challenging clinical environment, especially when children and youth are involved. The care provided by this team can be life-changing, sometimes, even life-saving; our CAMHU team members have proven they are up to the task. They are role models for collaborative, patient and family centred practice for our Hospital and community to look up to. Congratulations to the CAMHU team.

On January 25, staff and professional staff members were also recognized for reaching milestone years of service at the Hospital. We are fortunate that many people have contributed between five and 45 years of service. Our Hospital has a long history of providing quality patient and family centred care and plays a very important role for the Northwestern Ontario residents. Long-serving employees are an integral part of that legacy. I am grateful that they have chosen to spend their careers in service of patients and families at our Hospital; I am proud of their tireless dedication to ensuring that patients receive safe quality care, often under extremely difficult circumstances. I want to thank 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Grant Walsh for representing our Board at the Years of Service celebration.

I would also like to congratulate President & CEO Jean Bartkowiak and the Senior Leadership team for their guidance and actions during the current overcapacity crisis. Their leadership resulted in the safe transfer of ALC patients to a more appropriate care setting at the Transitional Care Unit at Hogarth Riverview Manor; this relieved pressures on staff throughout the Hospital. The Board of Directors is grateful for the constant communication, and, above all, the assurance that all decisions and actions were carried out with the safety and quality of patient care front and centre.

The patient census was high when I had the opportunity to deliver Holiday baskets to staff on many units. It was a true pleasure to meet staff members, and to take a few moments to share with them, on behalf of the members of the Board of Directors, our gratitude for their commitment to patients and their families. Regardless of the additional pressures resulting from the overcapacity, staff, physicians and volunteers appear to relentlessly focus on meeting patient needs.

Finally, I extend my appreciation to our local MPPs, the honourable Michael Gravelle and the honourable Bill Mauro, for their continued support in advocating at the provincial level regarding the Hospital's chronic underfunding to meet patient needs. Our region is unique, as are the health care needs of our population. Our MPPs understand that uniqueness; I am grateful to them for their commitment to ensure the people of Northwestern Ontario have access to state of the art specialized acute care.