



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

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Board of Directors
Conseil d'administration

**Report from Matt Simeoni
Chair, Board of Directors
February 6, 2019**

The start of a new year means it is time to recognize the hard work of our Hospital's employees and volunteers through our Walk the Talk nominations and awards. This annual event recognizes the dedication of our Hospital's volunteers, health care professionals and staff who demonstrate their commitment to excellent patient and family centred care to their team and the organization.

I am pleased to share that the Renal Biomed Technician Team (consisting of Mark Kusznier, Mike Smit, and Mbukiso Ndlangamandla) is the selected winner of the Board of Directors' Walk the Talk Award. "Patients First" truly describes the Technologists in this department. In this program, the Technologists are responsible for a large fleet of life supporting dialysis machines and the water treatment systems for safe dialysis in health care facilities and in patients' homes.

Therefore, these people not only work within the four walls of our Hospital, but also throughout Northwestern Ontario. They often travel on an urgent basis to fix dialysis machines in a patient's home or one of our dialysis units at a regional hospital site. They are also the calming voice on the end of the phone assisting a patient struggling with a technical issue on their machine.

Recently, a technologist made a home visit to remove the machine of a patient who had passed away. When met by a grieving spouse, the Technologist took the time to listen to stories, and pay respect at a memorial set up in the home. That is an exceptional commitment to "Patients First".

Although they are a small group, they cover a large area and have a significant impact on patients' experiences and outcomes. Congratulations to the Renal Biomedical Engineering Technologist team.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I can tell you that we are constantly moved by stories of the outstanding dedication of the people who work at our Hospital. They inspire us to volunteer to be part of this organization. We are extremely proud of them. Congratulations to all of the Walk the Talk nominees and award winners. I'd also like to thank my fellow Board Directors, Dick Mannisto for presenting the Board of Directors Award, and Anita Jean, Patricia Lang, and Joy Wakefield for attending.

The recent cold snap is a reminder that "flu season" is still upon us, the time of year when viruses circulate at the highest levels. I'd like to remind everyone that there is still time get the flu shot. By getting the flu shot, we can all help to contribute to reducing admissions to our Hospital. Every year in Canada, thousands of people are hospitalized because of the flu. When more people are vaccinated against the flu in a community, there is a decrease in the spread of the flu. Not only does getting vaccinated support people to be healthier, it also leads to less hospital admissions. If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to get the flu shot. Please visit www.thunderbayflu.ca for a list of flu clinics.