

# Executive Report

March 1, 2007

## Report from the OHA

### Establishing an Aboriginal Health Council

On February 24, 2007, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) published a draft regulation to the *Local Health System Integration Act, 2006 (LHSIA)*.

Section 14 of the LHSIA requires the Minister to establish an Aboriginal and First Nations Health Council to advise on health and service delivery issues related to Aboriginal and First Nations peoples as well as priorities and strategies for the provincial strategic plan related to those peoples. The draft regulation sets out the organizations from which the members of the Aboriginal Health Council would be selected.

A backgrounder is available on the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) website under "Communications - Legislative Issues and Analysis." For more information, contact Melissa Radolli at [mradolli@oha.com](mailto:mradolli@oha.com) or 416-205-1322.

### OHA Encouraged by Nursing Graduate Guarantee Program

The OHA welcomed the news this week that the Ontario government is strengthening access to nursing care across the health care system by creating the Nursing Graduate Guarantee program. "The Nursing Graduate Guarantee is an important building block in establishing a health human resources strategy that attracts and retains more nurses in the province of Ontario," said Hilary Short, President and CEO of the OHA.

As the registered bargaining agent for 138 Ontario hospitals, the OHA will continue to pursue enabling language amendments to its collective agreement with the Ontario Nurses Association (ONA) to ensure that the Nursing Graduate Guarantee is effectively implemented in Ontario hospitals. "Ontario's hospitals are partners in advancing health system change," said Short. "We will continue to support and advance changes to our collective agreement with ONA to

ensure that the full potential of the Nursing Graduate Guarantee is achieved." For further information, contact Chris McPherson at [cmcpherson@oha.com](mailto:cmcpherson@oha.com) or 416-205-1305.

### Complimentary "Your Health Care - Be Involved" Material Available

Last week's *Executive Report* mentioned that complimentary "Your Health Care - Be Involved" brochures are available through the OHA in both French and English. While brochures are available in French, the English material actually comes in the form of a horizontal poster. If you would like to order any of the complimentary material, the orders will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. Shipping charges are extra and will be invoiced to the hospital. To order materials, contact Sarena Weil at [sweil@oha.com](mailto:sweil@oha.com) or 416-205-1439.

### Ministry Renews MHPSG

The MOHLTC's Program Standards Technical Review Committee is reviewing and renewing the Public Health's Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines (MHPSG), which are minimum requirements for fundamental public health services targeted at disease prevention, health promotion and health protection.

The first consultation draft has been developed and comments are being accepted until March 9, 2007. The draft may be reviewed at [www.publichealthontario.ca](http://www.publichealthontario.ca), and comments may be forwarded by email to [draftpsh@moh.gov.on.ca](mailto:draftpsh@moh.gov.on.ca). For further information, contact Karen Sequeira at [ksequeira@oha.com](mailto:ksequeira@oha.com) or 416-205-1328.

# Report on Health Care

## Plans Underway for New St. Catharines Health-Care Complex

Infrastructure Ontario and the Niagara Health System have short-listed three companies to design, build, finance and maintain the new health care complex in St. Catharines. The short-listed building teams were pre-qualified through a request for qualifications process, which began in November 2006.

The new state-of-the-art health care facility will consolidate acute and ambulatory services on a new site for the residents of St. Catharines, Thorold and the immediate surrounding area. The bigger, more modern facility will provide new programs and services such as cardiac catheterization, radiation therapy for cancer treatment and longer-term mental health services, which will improve access to these specialized services for residents across Niagara.

The short-listed building teams will be invited to respond to a request for proposals (RFP) for the project, which will be issued in mid 2007.

## CKHA Home to Central Ambulance Communications Centre

Ontario's Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), **George Smitherman**, has announced one-time funding of up to \$2,000,000 to the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance (CKHA) to build a new Central Ambulance Communications Centre (CACC) at Sydenham Campus in Wallaceburg.

The new CACC building will better address additional space needs and provide a more suitable environment for telecommunications systems.

The MOHLTC requires that the new communications centre include all electrical systems including backup generator and uninterrupted power unit, communications equipment, parking and furnishings. A MOHLTC representative will be assigned to the building project.

## Complex Continuing Care Facility Performs First Blood Transfusion

The first blood transfusion in the 117 year history of St. Peter's Hospital - a complex continuing care facility - was performed on February 6, 2007. The service was made possible through a collaborative partnership between St. Peter's Hospital, Hamilton Health Sciences and the Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program, Transfusion Medicine Service, McMaster Site. Typically, St. Peter's patients are transferred to an acute care hospital to receive this service. Now patients will be able to remain in an environment that is familiar and, more importantly, in the care of professionals, who they interact with on a daily basis. To date, the in-house blood transfusion program is primarily available to palliative care patients with plans to expand the service to other patients in the near future.



## Neurologist from The Ottawa Hospital Named to the Order of Canada

The Ottawa Hospital would like to congratulate neurologist **Dr. Antoine Hakim**, who has been named an Officer of the Order of Canada for his significant contribution to the field of stroke research.

Dr. Hakim has distinguished himself through his leadership of the Canadian Stroke Network (CSN), and his efforts to promote an integrated approach to stroke prevention, care and recovery through the Canadian Stroke Strategy (CSS). The CSN unites university- and hospital-based researchers across Canada, while

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# Executive Announcements

Former Assistant Deputy Minister of the MOHLTC's Health System Investment and Funding Division, **Maureen Adamson**, has accepted a position as Chief Administrative Officer of Women's College Hospital effective March 26, 2007.

The Board of Directors of the Manitoulin

Health Centre is pleased to announce the appointment of **Derek Graham** as the new Chief Executive Officer, effective February 5, 2007.

**Dr. Bruce Pollock**, Senior Scientist at Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), has been elected President

of the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry.

**Dave Hughes** has joined Soldiers' Memorial Hospital on a permanent basis as their new Vice President of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer.

## Report on Health Care cont'd.

the CSS is an initiative developed in partnership with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

### Canadian Military and KGH Join Forces

Patients coming to Kingston General Hospital (KGH) during the next few months may receive some of their emergency, trauma, critical, or operative care from nurses of the Canadian Forces Health Services Group, thanks to a recently-signed agreement between the tertiary care hospital and the Canadian Forces.

The plan, similar to those in Edmonton and Ottawa, will assist Canadian Forces health services personnel in maintaining their skills in a variety of disciplines so that they are well prepared to provide medical care when deployed to areas such as Afghanistan.

At KGH, the program will begin with up to four experienced Canadian Forces nurses working alongside KGH registered nurses in areas such as the emergency department, intensive care unit and operating room.

## Report from Queen's Park

### MOHLTC Invests in Nurses

On February 27, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, **George Smitherman**, announced that the Ontario government is investing \$89 million dollars in Ontario nursing positions. As part of the MOHLTC's Nursing Graduate Guarantee program, the investment will assist employers to effectively transition new nursing graduates from students to clinicians.

Beginning this spring, the 4,000 nursing students expected to graduate will have the opportunity to obtain full-time employment in the health care field, including the hospital, long-term care, home care, mental health, public health and primary health care sectors.

The province will pay for the first six months of employment while the employer will be responsible for six weeks of funding, in turn providing new graduates seven and a half months to transition into a permanent full-time job while gaining valuable full-time clinical experience. This investment will also benefit other front-line nurses. This initiative includes a minimum three month period of orientation, and if after this time, employers are able to transition nursing graduates into permanent jobs, they will have the opportunity to use the remaining government funds for other frontline nursing priorities.

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# Report from Queen's Park cont'd.

New graduates will use an online employment portal on the website, [www.healthforceontario.ca](http://www.healthforceontario.ca), to apply for full-time job offers from employers. The employment portal offers a free venue for health care organizations to post their job vacancies and allows nurses to see the demands for their skills throughout the province.

## LHIN Information Available

The MOHLTC has developed a "back-to-basics" document about Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) and the change of focus for the ministry as well as a detailed frequently

asked questions document. Both documents are available on the Ministry's LHIN website: [www.health.gov.on.ca/transformation/lhin/lhin\\_mn.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/transformation/lhin/lhin_mn.html).

There is also a new email address, which health providers and members of the public are welcome to use to submit questions that are not already addressed on the website. The email address is: [transforminghealth@moh.gov.on.ca](mailto:transforminghealth@moh.gov.on.ca).

# OHA Conferences

## Improving Access to Emergency Care

March 26, 2007

Holiday Inn on King,  
370 King St. W., Toronto

Join us for this timely conference and terrific opportunity for emergency care providers to learn about and discuss some of the latest tools and methods for optimizing the emergency room (ER). The lecturers bring enthusiasm and vision to the topics of improved ER quality and efficiency, re-structuring the ER environment and patient care systems/processes that improve patient outcomes and reduces length of stay.

The conference will address a variety of key issues, including assessing and improving the ER department environment for better flow and shorter length of stay, patient flow and surge capacity protocols. Looking ahead to automated triage, the session will also review the first made-in-Canada and electronic triage tool that is designed around the 2004 CTAS Revisions. For further information, contact Shannon Byck Munday at [sbyckmunday@oha.com](mailto:sbyckmunday@oha.com) or 416-205-1357.

## Diagnostic Imaging Equipment: Ensuring Patient Safety

March 28, 2007

Holiday Inn on King,  
370 King St. W., Toronto

Patient exposure to radiation from computed tomography (CT) scanners and other diagnostic tools is an emerging international safety issue, one that has recently been the subject of examination and debate in the United States, the European Union and Ontario. This conference will feature expert discussions on national and international diagnostic imaging

standards and best practices (including the current work of Ontario's Diagnostic Imaging Safety Committee) in developing guidelines for the use of CT scanners, as well as the steps hospitals can take to ensure these important tools are used as safely and effectively as possible. For further information, contact Brian Shields at [bshields@oha.com](mailto:bshields@oha.com) or 416-2051455.

## A Culture of Safety in Health Care North West Sub-Region Conference, April 11-13, 2007, Thunder Bay

## North East/North Central Sub-Region Conference, April 25-27, 2007, North Bay

Issues such as SARS and pandemic influenza have moved patient safety to the forefront of today's health care organizations. Leadership in developing, promoting, implementing and evaluating safety components is essential for delivering effective patient care. Organizations must have established safety programs and procedures not only to recruit and retain staff, but to be leaders in the health care sector. This year's program has been designed to explore the culture of safety that exists in health care today and ways in which organizations can improve and move forward. Topics will include staff safety, patient safety, trustee and governance issues, accreditation, the evaluation of senior executives, labour relation best practices, respect and safety in the workplace, and a LHINs update. For further information, contact Joanne Grzywna at [jgrzywna@oha.com](mailto:jgrzywna@oha.com) or 416-205-1341.

# OHA Conferences (continued)

## Hospital of the Future

April 13, 2007

Renaissance Toronto Hotel Downtown,  
1 Blue Jays Way, Toronto

What will your hospital look like 10 years from now? What about 20 years from now? The *Hospital of the Future* conference is designed to provide hospital leadership with innovative ways to provide the best care to patients in an optimal environment. In the wake of Ontario's largest capital spending program on hospitals, a focus on expansion, improvement and modernization of facilities is critical.

Speakers from across Canada and the US will present case studies and provide insights into practical, forward-looking initiatives to improve patient care. Presentations will focus on technology, architecture and the informed consumer. A panel discussion will integrate these ideas and provide an opportunity to relate these advancements to the Ontario environment. This conference is planned in partnership with Courtyard Group. For further information, contact Shannon Byck Munday at [sbyckmunday@oha.com](mailto:sbyckmunday@oha.com) or 416-205-1357.

## New Partnership/New Directions

May 14-16, 2007

Ontario Hospital Association,  
200 Front St. W., Toronto

Key challenges for management and boards include understanding opportunities and issues related to striking partnerships and alliances, developing skills in negotiating the right partnerships, and creating an organizational climate which supports partnership and collaboration. Using case studies to illustrate and interpret the issues, participants will develop the skills, understanding and innovative thinking necessary to collaborate for success. Program topics are regularly updated to reflect issues of concern/interest to participating senior managers and directors. Readings will be distributed during the session, and a selected bibliography will also be available. For further information, contact Marisa Bavaro at [mbavaro@oha.com](mailto:mbavaro@oha.com) or 416-205-1309.

## Cancer Services in Ontario

May 15, 2007

Holiday Inn on King,  
370 King St. W., Toronto

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in Ontario. The growing burden of cancer requires a cancer system that is seamless and ensures integrated regional strategies are in place. Join us for this one day conference to address cancer services across Ontario. The conference will focus on the strengths and weaknesses in the current cancer system, and will review system performance and innovations in cancer treatment. This conference is planned in partnership with Cancer Care Ontario. For further information, contact Shannon Byck Munday at [sbyckmunday@oha.com](mailto:sbyckmunday@oha.com) or 416-205-1357.

## Rural and Northern Hospitals Annual Conference: Hot Topics in Rural and Northern Health Care

May 24-25, 2007

Toronto Marriott Bloor Yorkville,  
90 Bloor St. E., Toronto

New challenges and opportunities are emerging for health care providers who are tasked with improving the health of people living in northern and rural communities. As the province's 14 new LHINs assume funding responsibility, new models for addressing hospital cost structures are being considered. Issues to be addressed at this conference include: future trends in health care and the implications for rural and northern hospitals, the future of primary care, leading practices in rural health care training, effective governance, a financial update on LHINs, and emergency preparedness for rural and northern hospitals. For further information, contact Brian Shields at [bshields@oha.com](mailto:bshields@oha.com) or 416-205-1455.



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## Executive Report

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