

# Executive Report

January 18, 2007

## Report from the OHA

### OHA Addresses Standing Committee on Long-Term Care Legislation

On January 16, 2007, Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) President and CEO, Hilary Short, and SCO Health Service President and CEO, Jean Bartkowiak, appeared before the Legislative Assembly of Ontario's Standing Committee on Social Policy regarding Bill 140, the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2006*. The OHA's presentation emphasized that the OHA and its members endorse the principles underpinning Bill 140, but believe several of its provisions could be improved and strengthened. In addition to two days of public hearings in Toronto, the Standing Committee will conduct public consultations in Kingston, London and Sudbury during the month of January. A copy of the OHA's oral and written submissions are available online on the OHA website - [www.oha.com](http://www.oha.com) - under "Communications - Legislative Issues and Analysis" and can also be accessed through the OHA's Executive Update. For more information, contact Melissa Radolli at [mradolli@oha.com](mailto:mradolli@oha.com) or 416-205-1322.

### Release of Final SARS (Campbell) Commission Report

As reported in last week's Executive Update, Mr. Justice Archie Campbell released the final report of the independent SARS Commission, on January 9, 2007. The report is available at [www.sarscommission.ca](http://www.sarscommission.ca).

The report focuses on occupational health and safety issues at hospitals, as well as communications procedures and protocols both within and between hospitals, government and public health agencies.

The report's findings have implications for Ontario's hospitals, and they have generated considerable media interest. The OHA has posted the submission it made to the SARS Commission last September at [www.oha.com](http://www.oha.com). This submission outlines the many steps Ontario hospitals have taken since 2003 to improve

emergency preparedness and patient and employee safety. Key messages and preliminary Q's and A's about the report were developed and distributed to hospitals on January 9th to help CEOs and Communicators prepare for media inquiries and also included in the January 11th Edition of the Executive Update. For any questions about the SARS Commission report, contact Chris McPherson at [cmcpherson@oha.com](mailto:cmcpherson@oha.com) or 416-205-1305.

### Executive Report Goes Electronic

Last week's Executive Update announced that the OHA will no longer be sending hard-copy corporate packages to Hospital CEOs, Board Chairs and Communicators, as well as to OHA Associate and Affiliate Members. Instead, Members will receive the web-based "Executive Update." The decision to replace the hard-copy packages with the online communications is in direct response to significant Member feedback regarding the number of OHA communiqués sent to hospital CEOs each week.

The Executive Update, launched October 12, 2006, is a weekly email that bundles together OHA publications, reports and communications materials, including the *Executive Report*. Users are able to click on any heading in the Executive Update and link to further information from the OHA's website.

In November 2006, a survey was emailed to all users of the Executive Update requesting feedback. The OHA's Members reported that they found the Executive Update preferable to the hard-copy corporate package, noting that the electronic version is more easily shared and is more environmentally responsible. The OHA will stop sending its hard-copy corporate package, including the *Executive Report*, on February 1, 2007. Readers can continue to receive the *Executive Report* by subscribing to the Executive Update at <http://survey.oha.com/newsletter/>. Alternatively, the Executive Report is also available from the OHA's website at [www.oha.com](http://www.oha.com). "Communications - Publications - Executive Report." New editions are posted every Thursday. For further information, contact Chris McPherson at [cmcpherson@oha.com](mailto:cmcpherson@oha.com) or 416-205-1305.

# Report on Health Care

## Hotel Dieu Hospital Goes Green

Hotel Dieu Hospital (Kingston) will become a “greener” organization in 2007 thanks to a major overhaul of the hospital’s energy systems. The plan will dramatically lower its energy consumption, slice about \$535,000 off its annual \$1.5 million energy bill, and contribute to a healthier environment. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care recently gave the green light to the \$4.9 million energy-smart project, a comprehensive retrofit that will encompass lighting, heating, ventilation and hot water systems. The project will pay for itself through annual energy savings, and its cost will not affect the hospital’s ability to provide quality patient care. In addition, the hospital has just successfully won a \$250,000 energy retrofit assistance grant from Natural Resources Canada under the Energy Innovators Initiative program, which offers incentives to organizations aiming for greater energy efficiency. Hotel Dieu qualified for the maximum available grant. In the short time ahead, the hospital plans to replace more than 13,000 lighting fixtures with highly energy-efficient fluorescent tubing. Further energy savings will be achieved by converting Hotel Dieu’s heating system from steam to hot water. The hospital will also upgrade its ventilation systems and renew other required energy equipment, including chillers, cooling towers and humidification systems.

## Headwaters Health Care Centre and GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance Strike New Partnership

Headwaters Health Care Centre and the GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance are pleased to announce that Headwaters Health Care Centre is joining the Healthcare Alliance. The GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance is the collective voice of acute care and mental health hospitals across high growth communities in the Greater Toronto Area - from Oshawa to Burlington and north to Newmarket and now across to Dufferin and Caledon. Alliance hospitals provide care to Ontarians living in the fastest growing communities in Ontario, where over one quarter of

Ontarians reside and which account for more than half of Ontario’s annual population growth.

The current funding formula for Ontario’s hospitals does not adequately account for population growth or demographic pressures. As a result, high growth regions such as Dufferin-Caledon are facing significant and growing gaps in per capita funding for

hospital services. The per capita funding for hospital care in the Central West LHIN is \$280 lower than the provincial average. This means residents may wait longer for hospital care or may need to by-pass their local hospital and seek care outside their communities, away from the support of family and friends. “With Dufferin and Caledon’s population growing at the rate they are today, we are facing the same pressures as other Alliance partners providing care in fast growing communities,” said **The Honourable John McDermid**, Chair of Headwaters Health Care Centre. “By working with other high growth hospitals and health care providers, we look forward to improving local access to hospital care for the growing number of residents living in the many communities we serve.”

## SickKids Sets Record for Heart Transplants

The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) performed 20 heart transplants on children from across the country in 2006, setting a record for the number of heart transplants performed in a year



by a Canadian paediatric transplant centre. Since the SickKids Cardiac Transplant Program began in 1990, 191 heart transplants have been performed at the hospital, establishing SickKids as one of the most prolific paediatric heart transplant centres in North America. While there is no average wait time to receive a heart, the use of leading-edge technology, such as the Berlin Heart (a ventricular assist device system), has allowed SickKids to help children survive longer waits for a suitable donor heart. To date, four patients at SickKids have been assisted by the device.

# Report on Health Care (Cont'd)

## SickKids Sets Record for Heart Transplants

“SickKids has acquired the technology and expertise that has allowed us to help more children receive a heart transplant and survive for a longer period of time with their new heart,” says **Dr. Anne Dipchand**, head of the SickKids Cardiac Transplant Program. “We have a dedicated multi-disciplinary team that is very focused on improving a child’s quality of life so that children can still enjoy being kids after transplant.”

The SickKids Cardiac Transplant Program offers a multi-disciplinary

approach that focuses on post-transplant care to ensure better outcomes, improved quality of life and a higher survival rate among transplant patients.

The hospital is the only Canadian centre participating in a North American study tracking paediatric heart transplant patients. Almost a quarter of SickKids heart transplant patients are from out of province. The transplant program has a traveling cardiac clinic that visits other programs across Canada once a year for patient follow-up and transplant education.

# Report from Government

## Health Canada Conducts Online Consultations Regarding Mental Health

Canada’s federal government is launching online consultations to hear Canadians’ opinions on the proposal to establish a mental health commission in Canada.

The creation of a mental health commission was a key recommendation of the May 2006 Standing Senate Committee’s report on mental health, mental illness and addiction in Canada. The report, entitled, “Out of the Shadows at Last: Transforming Mental Health, Mental Illness and Addiction Services in Canada,” summarizes information gathered during a two-year study involving Canadians from across the country.

Canada’s federal government continues to build on this work by encouraging Canadians and stakeholders with an

interest in mental health to participate in the online consultations.

Submissions should focus on the mandate, function, and activities of the proposed mental health commission. The consultations will be held on Health Canada’s web site ([http://hc-sc.gc.ca/dc-ma/mental/consultation/index\\_e.html](http://hc-sc.gc.ca/dc-ma/mental/consultation/index_e.html)) from January 15 to 25, 2007.



# OHA Conferences

## Patient Safety: Teamwork & Communication January 30 - 31, 2007 Holiday Inn on King, Toronto

Recognizing that communication and teamwork are key to strengthening patient safety practices, the OHA is pleased to offer both a pre-conference workshop and coinciding conference focusing on the importance of teamwork and communication. Attendance for the pre-conference workshop is limited to 40 delegates. Early registration is recommended. Conference details include:

- January 30, 2007 - Pre-conference Workshop  
Safety-Critical Communication Skills

Using a trigger video, the workshop will explore the nature of communication and put safety-critical communication tools in practice using health care examples. Such tools include Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation (SBAR - a briefing/handover tool), Graded Assertiveness, Names and Numbers (using a controlled and specific vocabulary rather than indefinite terms) and Transparency (thinking out loud). Session limited to 40 participants.

- January 31, 2007 - Conference  
Teamwork & Communication

Patient safety has always been a top priority for Ontario hospitals, and it continues to be a critical issue in today's health care landscape. The conference will address:

- The nature and structure of teams;
- Teamwork tools;
- Team requirements / organized performance;
- The importance of assertive communication; and
- The use of SBAR

For further information, contact Shannon Byck Munday at [sbyckmunday@oha.com](mailto:sbyckmunday@oha.com) or 416-205-1357.

## Wait Times: Where We Are Now and Where We Need to Go Next Friday, February 23, 2007 Renaissance Toronto Hotel Downtown, Toronto

Reducing wait times for key health services is a priority of Ontario's government and an important part of transforming the province's health system. This conference will review the progress of the Wait Time Strategy and assess the results to date. Attend this conference to learn more about: Wait Time Strategy Report #7; review of the Wait Time Strategy Report by former Senator, Michael Kirby; information technology - review of Phase I; quality and safety issues; update from the Expert Panels; wait times governance issues; and how to efficiently manage data.

For further information, contact Brian Shields at [bshields@oha.com](mailto:bshields@oha.com) or 416-205-1455.



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