

February, 2010

Dear Member:

**Re: Hospital Prototype Corporate and Board-Appointed Professional Staff By-laws**

The Ontario Hospital Association's (OHA) 2010 Hospital Prototype Corporate and Board-Appointed Professional Staff By-laws (Prototype By-laws) have been developed as a best practice guide for hospitals to use when developing their own by-laws.

Hospital governance practices have changed since the Prototype By-laws were last updated in 2003. Recommendations made by the Auditor General highlighted the value of skills-based hospital boards and the importance of recruiting board members with the required competencies to avoid conflicts of interest. The jury in the Dupont/Daniel Inquest made recommendations aimed at strengthening the hospital-physician relationship and ensuring and promoting the safety of hospital staff and patients.

These are just a few examples of why changes to Hospital Prototype By-laws are urgently required.

Adoption of the Prototype By-laws to the greatest extent possible demonstrates continued hospital leadership in improving hospital governance practices and ensures consistency with contemporary legislative and public policy imperatives.

The Prototype By-laws are available in a digital format for hospitals to download. These online versions can be fully modified and customized, and I would encourage hospitals to use the sections most relevant to their organization.

To assist members with understanding, adopting and implementing the Prototype By-laws, the OHA has also developed a number of communications tools; including Frequently Asked Questions, document Plain Language Versions of the Prototype By-laws, and Template PowerPoint Presentations.

A copy of the Prototype By-laws and these communications tools are enclosed.

**The Prototype By-laws and corresponding Tools are also available online**, at no charge, at [www.oha.com](http://www.oha.com), in the Toolkit section of the Library under the "Knowledge Centre" tab. We encourage you to download these documents, and to utilize the sections and options most relevant to your hospital.

To order additional hard copies of the Prototype By-laws, please visit [www.oha.com](http://www.oha.com). If you have any questions about the By-laws or require additional information, please contact Melissa Prokopy at [mprokopy@oha.com](mailto:mprokopy@oha.com) or 416.205.1322.

Sincerely,



Tom Closson  
President and CEO