

February 12, 2013

## A 'Made in Windsor' Vision for Hospital Care Delivery Boards of WRH, HDGH propose governance changes on road to new hospital

The Board of Directors of Windsor Regional Hospital and Hôtel-Dieu Grace Hospital have jointly agreed on a proposed new vision for hospital care delivery in Windsor that if approved would mark a significant and historic step on the road to a new state-of-the-art acute care hospital.

Representing the best interests of the community at large, the Boards of Directors agreed unanimously on a vision for a new Windsor hospital system and Windsor hospital governance model that will be submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and Erie St Clair LHIN for review and approval. The vision contemplates significant shifting of responsibilities between the two hospital corporations as a necessary step in advance of planning for a new facility to deliver acute care to our community.

The resolution provides an important point of discussion with the Ministry and is seen as a starting point on how programs and services would eventually be administered at a new acute care facility.

Highlights of the resolution by the boards of WRH and HDGH:

- WRH would be responsible for all acute care services - such as emergency treatment, acute inpatient services, intensive and critical care units, cancer, acute mental health and outpatient services as required to support acute care services - at a new hospital site.
- HDGH would be responsible for all non-acute care services. This includes the Tayfour campus site currently operated by WRH, with services such as chronic care, regional rehabilitation, specialized mental health and addictions, and children's mental health. Once the single site acute care hospital is operational, the existing Hôtel-Dieu Grace Hospital site (Ouellette) could be reconfigured to focus non-acute services such as ambulatory care, urgent care, diagnostic services and possible day surgery.

As a vitally important interim step to achieve the governance vision outlined above, the boards unanimously agree that, subject to government approval, the administrations of both WRH and HDGH should begin the process of transferring service responsibilities. This means WRH and HDGH, if approval is granted, would begin the process of transferring acute service responsibility from HDGH to WRH - including acute care services currently delivered at HDGH - and to transfer non-acute care service responsibility from WRH to HDGH. Both boards recognize that the significant shifting of responsibilities will require substantial planning. While reluctant to confirm a timetable at this time, the boards are hopeful that discussions with the Ministry to approve the process to transfer responsibilities will begin soon.

The boards of WRH and HDGH initiated discussions on a new governance model in hopes of expediting the process towards a new hospital. Even in the absence of the approval of a new hospital, both boards also recognize many benefits in realigning all acute services in one organization even before moving to a new site, including but not limited to optimizing capacity on both sites, improved economies of scale, a more consistent and co-ordinated approach to health service delivery, and achieving many of the benefits of a new facility through consolidation of management for clinical acute care processes. (More detail on the potential benefits can be found on the **attached communique** which has been issued to all staff, physicians and volunteers of both organizations.)

Under this new governance vision, it is important to note that for employees, all existing union collective agreements would be respected, and professional staff member appointments and privileges will be treated in an equitable and fair manner. All staff will be kept informed throughout this important planning process.

"I am honoured to be associated with my colleagues of both Board of Directors for focusing on our community, its needs and vision by addressing the governance issues swiftly yet thoroughly. This is clear evidence to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care that Windsor is serious regarding its need for a new, state-of-the-art acute care facility and has taken the initial steps towards that vision," stated Carol Derbyshire, Chair of the Board, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Hospital.

"The two Boards have heard our community loud and clear and are looking at governance in the best interest of the community. We hope that this proposed vision can pave the way for a new single-site acute care hospital and provide the needed special attention to sub-acute care programs and services," stated Gay Wrye, Board Chair, Windsor Regional Hospital.

- 30 -

### For further information contact:

Steve Erwin, Director of Communications, HDGH  
519-973-4433 / 519-564-4902 / [steve.erwin@hdgh.org](mailto:steve.erwin@hdgh.org)

Ron Foster, VP, Public Affairs and Communications, WRH  
519-995-2482 / 519-254-5577 Ext. 52003 / [ron\\_foster@wrh.on.ca](mailto:ron_foster@wrh.on.ca)