



OUTSTANDING CARE – NO EXCEPTIONS!

November 2025

CEO/CNE Report
Board of Directors
Open Meeting

Strategic Direction # 2- Foster an Inclusive Culture of Accountability and Transparency

We held our quarterly Town Hall on October 23rd. In attendance was our senior team and our NWEACH Project Team. The project team presented an overview of the work completed to date for the new hospital planning and provided an opportunity for all employees, affiliates and professional staff to ask any questions that they may have. With over 100 in attendance we had great engagement and look forward to continuing this forum to keep our teams and the broader community involved and engaged in this historic healthcare system redesign.

If you haven't completed your engagement survey yet please go to the link below!

[Windsor Regional Hospital Corporate Rebranding and Renaming Engagement Survey](#)



Strategic Direction # 3- Maintain a responsive and sustainable corporate financial strategy

The **Nurse Police Team (NPT)** is a partnership with **Windsor Police Service** that pairs frontline officers with nursing professionals to deliver proactive care to people struggling with substance use and mental health challenges. This \$500,000 grant will enable the NPT to continue providing on-scene treatment to those in need.

Initially launched as a pilot project in May 2023, the NPT was expanded to run seven days a week the following year. Officers and nurses are on the road delivering critical care between 1 p.m. and 1 a.m. daily. In the first nine months of 2025 alone, the NPT handled 1,943 calls for service, distributed 80 doses of Naloxone, made 291 referrals to community resources, and diverted 436 potential visits from hospital emergency rooms.

The NPT program has attracted attention across North America, mainly due to its operational success. This half-million-dollar investment from the Ontario government will equip Windsor Police Service and Windsor Regional Hospital to cement this program as a mainstay of the community's emergency response model.



Strategic Direction # 3- Maintain a responsive and sustainable corporate financial strategy

The Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation would like to thank the Funkenhauser Family for its ongoing generosity.

Gunther and Judy Funkenhauser are set to present the WRH Foundation with a cheque thanks to funds raised from the annual 'Trevor Louis Funkenhauser - A Day For A Life' golf tournament, in honour of Gunther and Judy's son, Trevor, who passed away tragically in 2006 following a courageous battle against endocarditis.

With this most recent donation of \$13,300 their grand total to date is over \$200,000. An amazing legacy for their son and life saving gift for our community.



Strategic Direction # 3- Maintain a responsive and sustainable corporate financial strategy



We were also thrilled to announce the grand opening of the newly renovated 4West Atrium-renamed the Stephanie and Barry Zekelman Atrium, designed specifically for patients and their families. This serene space provides a distraction-free environment where loved ones can gather and spend quality time together.

The revitalization of this area was made possible through the generous contribution of \$100,000 from Transition 2 Betterness (T2B) and their incredible donors, including the Stephanie and Barry Zekelman Foundation. Shift Interiors handled the design and furnishings, while the stunning outdoor mural was created by Derkz. The atrium welcomes visitors daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., offering a peaceful retreat for patients and their families to relax and socialize away from their rooms during their stay. This special space allows for safe and private connections with loved ones, and an outdoor area is also available, weather permitting.

Strategic Direction # 3- Maintain a responsive and sustainable corporate financial strategy

We were also honored to celebrate the 6th annual Sail into Summer Cheque Presentation in the amount of \$80,000. This year's event helped purchase a state-of-the-art Hemo Cardiovascular Information System, which will be part of the newly renovated Cardiac Catheterization Lab at the Ouellette Campus of Windsor Regional Hospital



Strategic Direction # 3- Maintain a responsive and sustainable corporate financial strategy

And most recently our Carve 4 Cancer event raised over \$16,000 for a grand total raised of \$93,408 since 2018 for the Windsor Regional Cancer Centre. This event was started and lead by Lindsey Bareich when she was just 12 years old!



Strategic Direction # 4- Enhance an equitable workplace culture that establishes WRH as an employer of choice

ICU EDUCATION FAIR AT OUELLETTE CAMPUS

The event highlighted key topics in critical care such as Code Omega, Code Stroke and Pacemakers, through interactive stations, hands on learning and creative displays.

The event would not have been possible without the hard work, dedication, and meticulous planning of our Clinical Practice Managers and Educators.

A heartfelt thank you also goes out to all the staff who joined us with over 80 attendees.

The fair was a huge success!



Strategic Direction # 4- Enhance an equitable workplace culture that establishes WRH as an employer of choice

We recently had our annual Halloween Decorating Contests with over 20 departments participating in a heated battle for the win!

OUELLETTE CAMPUS WINNERS

Most Creative: 5 East

Most Esthetic: PACU

Most Creepy: Laboratory

MET CAMPUS WINNERS

Most Creative: Surgical Pathology

Most Esthetic: 4 North

Most Creepy: Guest Services



We are also excited to host our annual Take Your Kids to Work Day this coming November 9th. Our attendees will be experience guest speakers, tours of numerous clinical areas and ask lots of questions of our clinical and non clinical staff based on their career pathway interests.

We are looking forward to another well attended event this year!

Strategic Direction # 6- Design and deliver a new state-of-the-art acute care facility, with the community, for our region.



The Redevelopment Team and WRH User Group Members have been working closely with the experienced planners at Stantec Architecture and Agnew Peckham on a set of rules and requirements for the new build, along with early and illustrative drawings – both key components of the eventual Request for Proposals (RFP) used as part of a competitive procurement process to determine who will deliver the project.

Before finalizing the documents, the project team is sharing the latest plans with staff as part of a 3-stage internal engagement plan, to ensure they accurately capture the feedback provided throughout the planning process and do not include any critical barriers that will impact flow, quality of care, or safety. This engagement began with a town hall on October 23 and will conclude with an opportunity for staff to view room-level during two open houses that will take place later this year.



The project team is also making strong progress in the corporate renaming and rebranding engagement initiative. Since launching the engagement survey in September – which is now available in 10 target languages on the [project website](#) - **more than 1,450 survey responses have been completed**. The engagement includes high levels of participation from staff, patients, community members, and regional partners.

In addition, the team is participating in a series of workshops and community events, including Open Streets Windsor, Rise Above Community Health Conference at St Clair College, Essex Centre Street Fest.

The next in-person event will take place on Nov. 5 at the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County Health Expo.

The survey is currently being promoted online through social media and in news and media outlets throughout Windsor-Essex. It will remain open until December 15, ensuring ample time for all interested participants to share their input. Collectively, these insights will help inform the development of naming themes and early brand concepts, which the project team looks forward to sharing in the coming months.

Strategic Direction # 1- Strengthen the processes that drive a proactive & inclusive culture of patient safety and quality care

As we enter the 2025–2026 respiratory virus season, Windsor Regional Hospital continues to monitor trends closely using the Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool — a comprehensive resource that tracks COVID-19, influenza, RSV, and other respiratory viruses across the province. For the week of October 12–18 (Surveillance Week 42), percent positivity remained low for all three major viruses:

- **COVID-19:** 5.6%, with declining activity since mid-September
- **Influenza:** 0.5%, with both H1N1 and H3N2 circulating at comparable levels
- **RSV:** 0.4%, with rising positivity among children under five

In hospital we are seeing sporadic cases, as of this writing we have 4 cases of Covid, 0 RSV and 0 influenza in house, with no significant increase in presentations of respiratory cases in the emergency departments as of this time.

Don't forget to practice good respiratory etiquette!

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/Respiratory-Virus-Tool>

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/C/2013/clincial-office-cough-signage.pdf>



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
Put your used tissue in the waste basket.



If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.



You may be asked to put on a facemask to protect others.



Wash hands often with soap and warm water for 15 seconds.

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

Strategic Direction # 1- Strengthen the processes that drive a proactive & inclusive culture of patient safety and quality care

In addition to our usual respiratory season surge planning we kicked off our staff flu vaccine clinics this month — a collaborative effort between our Pharmacy team and Employee Health. These clinics are a key part of our prevention strategy, helping protect both staff and patients during a time of heightened respiratory illness. Uptake has been great with over 700 staff already vaccinated with clinics continuing into November.

Remember that vaccination is still the best way to prevent influenza, go to <https://www.wechu.org/news-release-windsor-essex-county-health-unit-encourages-residents-stay-protected-respiratory> for information on reducing risk associated with respiratory season, including influenza, RSV and Covid vaccination.

Go to Ontario.ca for pharmacy vaccination site information: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/C/2013/clincial-office-cough-signage.pdf>

Strategic Direction # 5- Enhance collaboration and strengthen partnerships to build a better healthcare network

The 2025 measles outbreak in Ontario presented a significant public health challenge, with 2,375 confirmed cases province-wide and an incidence rate of 15.0 per 100,000 population. Windsor-Essex was disproportionately affected, reporting 149 cases — 6.3% of Ontario's total — and an incidence rate of 33.3 per 100,000, more than double the provincial average. The last outbreak case in our region was recorded on July 27, 2025, followed by one additional non-outbreak case thereafter.

The actions we took following the outbreak focused on keeping our patients and community safe. We worked with WECHU and Erie Shores Healthcare to coordinate efforts to ensure that cases were brought in safely to the hospitals limiting exposures, due to its highly infectious nature, and we also discontinued visiting for children under the age of 16 – although exceptions were allowed for extenuating circumstances. With the lifting of the outbreak on October 6th, 2025 this has now been adjusted to only having restrictions for under age of 16 in Paediatrics and NICU. Go to wrh.on.ca/visiting hours for all department visitation guidelines.

Please continue to notify the hospital prior to presentation if you think that you have been exposed to measles or are symptomatic.



Windsor Regional Hospital

- Call the hospital at 519-254-5577, dial 0 and ask to speak with the Emergency Department that you're planning to visit.
- Prior to entry, please wear a well fitted mask or ask security for a mask.
- If you have an appointment at the hospital, please call 519-254-5577 and ask to speak with the department you're booked to see prior to your appointment.


@TheWECHU

Strategic Direction # 5- Enhance collaboration and strengthen partnerships to build a better healthcare network

Gestational Diabetes Program Transition

Windsor Regional Hospital is proud to announce the successful transition of our Gestational Diabetes Program to the Windsor-Essex Community Health Centre (weCHC), now offered through their Diabetes Wellness Clinic. This move enhances accessibility for expectant mothers across our region, ensuring they receive high-quality, community-based care from expert nurses and dietitians

This program provides personalized education, counseling, and support to help manage gestational diabetes and reduce risks for both mother and baby. The transition reflects our shared commitment to integrated care and strong partnerships across Windsor-Essex.

Referrals can be made by obstetricians, midwives, family physicians, and endocrinologists. Visit wechc.org for more information.



Strategic Direction # 4- Enhance an equitable workplace culture that establishes WRH as an employer of choice

The new DI careers page is now live at joinwrh.ca, launching just in time for MRT Week to support recruitment outreach.

Recruitment in DI continues to present some challenges, consistent with broader trends across the sector. We'll be promoting it on social media to help raise awareness of our DI opportunities and incentive programs.

[Windsor Regional Hospital – Brighter Together](#)

