

PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

President and CEO Report – March 2025

Board Education Session

As you will recall, the province selected the Renfrew County Mesa HART (Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment) Hub as one of 27 opening in Ontario, with the goal of being operational by April 1st. Along with the County of Renfrew, our hospital is co-leading this initiative which comes with annual funding in the amount \$6.3 million, \$1.3 of which is earmarked for Mental Health and Addictions Supportive Housing.

For this month's education session, Renfrew County's Chief Administrative Officer Craig Kelley joined Sabine Mersmann in providing an overview of the HART Hub initiative as well as an update on the work that is already underway.

***Epic* Update**

As promised, I want to provide an update on our *Epic* implementation timeline based on the series of events that have taken place over the last couple of months.

As it stands, a regional *Epic* Kickoff is scheduled to take place April 2nd involving the five other hospitals in the Champlain region who will go-live at the same time as us - Montfort Hospital, Arnprior Regional Health, Glengarry Memorial Hospital, The Royal and Queensway-Carleton.

While we have yet to receive a firm launch date, the collective go-live is scheduled to take place in the fall of 2026. This extended time period takes into account the expanded workload to onboard six hospitals, the need to recruit for larger implementation teams, and the lead up training that will have to take place in order to ensure everyone is ready for go-live.

While this delay of close to a year is disappointing, we do recognize the silver lining in that it will mean significant project cost savings and an incredible improvement for staff and physicians with all but two hospitals using the same platform in the Champlain Health Region. The extended timeline will also give us an opportunity to explore the possibilities around primary care integration.

In the meantime, we are continuing with the preparatory work that we had already scheduled. This includes linking our Spacelab monitors (cardiac and telemetry) with our registration system, going electronic with our Urinalysis machines on our Obstetrics unit and in our Emergency Department, and moving our Stress Testing system to electronic capture and interpretation.

Construction Update

Surgical Inpatient Unit - On March 4th, our team was finally able to move into their new space on the 3rd floor of Tower A, a long-awaited move that went very well.

With the move complete, work is now being done to give a facelift to the 2nd floor with some new paint and patching of the walls. Once that is finished, the Medical Inpatient unit will again utilize the space for some of their patients.

Chemotherapy unit - While we had some unexpected delays due to flooring, our Systemic Therapy team moved into their new space the week of March 17th. Patients and staff are enjoying the new open space. Work has started on the last phase of the project which will be the

construction of a new waiting room, meeting room and training room in the recently vacated space across the corridor. A grand opening of the space will be planned for late spring.

Tower C Main Entrance – After experiencing an unforeseen water leak which damaged some of Mulvihill Drug Mart's new millwork and flooring, completion of this first phase of the project was delayed. We are awaiting an updated timeline for both this work and the start of Phase 2.

As most of our current renovation projects are nearing completion, we are already making plans to improve other parts of our facility that are greatly in need of a refresh.

To this end, we are working with architects on a proposal to renovate the 2nd floor Medical unit in Tower A. Should the Ministry of Health consider supporting this project, it would provide us with an opportunity to transform the space as we have done in other areas in order to improve the patient experience and service delivery. The priority for this project is the patient care space however we are also planning improvements to our loading dock and our staff change room areas in the same project.

While such a project would likely be a number of years out, it's important that we start the planning phase now.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Some of you may have noticed an abundance of work being done in our parking lots as part of the installation of electric vehicle charging stations. As you may recall, nine are being installed – four in the Deacon Street staff lot, two in the public lot on Deacon Street, and three in the lot behind Tower C.

We are hoping to see them fully operational by the end of the month at which time we will be doing some public communication about their arrival.

PRH To Host A Stroke Education Session For The Community

As part of our work in health prevention and service promotion, our hospital is re-launching a series of public education sessions starting with a Stroke Education Session the evening of April 24th at the Best Western Pembroke Inn and Conference Centre.

This event will feature a number of speakers from our staff and physician team as well as community partners who will address a broad range of topics from the science of stroke, to stroke prevention, treatment and recovery. In addition, we will welcome representatives from a number of community partner agencies and organizations who will offer information and resources aligned with the topic.

Detailed advertising for this event will be rolled out at the beginning of April.

PRH Collaborates With Regional Public Sector Organizations To Advance Commitment To Truth and Reconciliation

On February 28th, Beth Brownlee and I attended the Makwa Community Centre in Golden Lake for Day Two of *Advancing Truth and Reconciliation in Renfrew County*, an event focused on our collective journey towards Truth and Reconciliation.

More than 50 participants from eight public sector organizations took part, working alongside members of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation during the two sessions. Other participating organizations included:

- Algonquin College – Waterfront Campus
- City of Pembroke
- County of Renfrew
- Family & Children's Services of Renfrew County
- Renfrew County & District Health Unit
- Renfrew County Catholic District School Board
- Renfrew County District School Board

The day-long event was a continuation of the work we started in January enabling us to gain a deeper understanding of the *94 Calls to Action* and the 44 articles of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) while focusing on action planning and ways to implement what we learned within our own organizations.

Actions Taken by the Board at its March 26, 2025 Board Meeting

Approved the following appointments/reappointments:

- Three new physicians for Courtesy privileges
- Six new physicians for Term privileges
- Three new physicians for Associate privileges
- Two new nurse practitioners for Courtesy privileges
- One new midwife for Term privileges
- Forty-Four physicians for Active privileges
- Two physicians for Associate privileges
- Fifty-seven physicians for Term privileges
- Twenty-five physicians for Courtesy privileges
- Three physicians for Associate privileges
- Nine nurse practitioners for Courtesy privileges

Approved the 2025/26 Quality Improvement Plan

Approved the 2025-26 Hospital Operating Budget with a Deficit of \$0.5million

Approved the 2025-26 Community Mental Health Services deficit of \$0.2million

Approved the Hospital Services Accountability Agreement (HSAA) and Multi-Sectoral Services Accountability Agreement (MSAA) Extending Letter for 2025/26 Fiscal Year

Approved the Initial New Capital Allocation of \$6,025,660 for 2025/26

Authorized the President and CEO and Board Chair to sign any declarations of compliance for the fiscal year 2024/25