



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL THURSDAY, March 5, 2015

West Haldimand General Hospital and Norfolk General Hospital To Share a Single Leadership Team

Beginning April 1, 2015 West Haldimand General Hospital (WHGH) and Norfolk General Hospital (NGH) have agreed in principle to begin a process to phase in the sharing of a single leadership team. The two communities served by these hospitals have been connected by care with a strong physician partnership including a shared surgical program and a number of medical specialists for over 30 years and are looking to strengthen that partnership.

"I am very pleased to announce that Kelly Isfan, President and CEO of the Norfolk General Hospital will assume the role of President and CEO of the West Haldimand General Hospital beginning April 1, 2015", stated Patty Nixon, Chair of the WHGH Board of Directors. Ms. Isfan will concurrently lead the two corporations and be accountable to each hospital's Board of Directors. The two hospitals will remain as separate organizations but will work toward sharing additional leadership staff in order to direct the most resources toward quality patient care.

Beth Snowden Norfolk General Hospital Board of Directors Chair underlined Ms. Nixon's statement by saying "On behalf of the NGH Board, we welcome this opportunity for NGH to partner with West Haldimand General. Together, we will continue to inspire exceptional health care in our shared communities."

This strengthened partnership and shared management will be invisible to patients – but the benefits will definitely be felt by making the best use of scarce financial resources.

WHGH and NGH will begin the phasing in of a shared Chief of Medical Staff (subject to a formal MAC appointment process), VP/Chief Nursing Executive and Chief Financial Officer, the positions which comprise the remainder of the senior leadership team at both hospitals. It is expected that this will be complete by the fall of 2015.

For small and community hospitals in Ontario, the sharing of administrative, support and clinical staff is very common, a direction which The Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local

Health Integrated Network strongly supports. “The HNHB LHIN applauds Norfolk General Hospital and West Haldimand General Hospital for recognizing the value in working more closely together and sharing key administrative roles. Combining these key management positions not only uses resources wisely, but also ensures quality care for patients through strengthening best practice learnings, and recognizing and sharing expertise across organizations” stated Donna Cripps LHIN CEO.

NGH and WHGH will continue to inform and consult the communities they serve during this process. Information on the partnership can be found on each organization’s website at www.whgh.ca or www.ngh.on.ca .

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About The West Haldimand General Hospital

The West Haldimand General Hospital is a fully accredited, small rural community hospital, in the town of Hagersville, which provides basic hospital and health care services to the people of Hagersville, Caledonia, Jarvis, Townsend, Cayuga, Fisherville, Selkirk, Nanticoke, the Six Nations First Nation and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.

About The Norfolk General Hospital

Norfolk General Hospital is a full service hospital located in the town of Simcoe. Serving Norfolk County and surrounding area, NGH is home to health care professionals dedicated to excelling in their sphere and focused on the well-being of their patients and community. One of the largest employers in the area, NGH is also recognized as having one of the highest rates of volunteerism in the Province, providing our Hospital and Nursing Home with over 40,000 hours annually.

Some Facts

- NGH and WHGH share a number of vital clinicians including surgeons, anesthetists, a cardiologist and internist and most recently an Obstetrician/gynecologist.
- Since November 2014 12 members of NGH surgical and internal medicine departments have committed to providing WHGH with on-call services to WHGH physicians.