



## News Release

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

### **Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre signs Hospital Service Accountability Agreement**

The North West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is pleased to announce that Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre has signed its 2008-10 Hospital Service Accountability Agreement (H-SAA).

TBRHSC and the North West LHIN have been negotiating a two year (2008-2010) budget and service accountability agreement for 11 months. The Health Sciences Centre had maintained that it could not achieve a balanced budget unless the Alternate level of Care (ALC) issue was resolved. ALC patients are those patients who are finished their acute care treatment and are ready for discharge to another level of care that is not immediately available to them, such as complex continuing care, rehabilitation, supportive housing, long-term care or at home support services. These delays in discharge result in fewer acute care beds being available for patients who need to be admitted to TBRHSC.

The North West LHIN recognizes that ALC is a significant health system problem in our region. Recent statistics over the past 4 months demonstrate a downward trend in ALC numbers in Thunder Bay. With this reduction in ALC and the continued work of multiple health system partners with the ALC issue, TBRHSC believes it can achieve a balanced budget and sign its Hospital Service Accountability Agreement (H-SAA).

#### **QUOTE**

"The North West LHIN appreciates the hard work by Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre in achieving a signed Hospital Service Accountability Agreement," said Jan Beazley, Chair of the North West LHIN. "We look forward to continuing a strong relationship with TBRHSC and its Board as we collectively work together to build a strong health system."

"We recognize the challenge that the Health Sciences Centre has experienced with the ALC pressures," says Gwen DuBois-Wing, CEO of the North West LHIN. "We appreciate the efforts of TBRHSC and many of our health system partners to address ALC. We will work closely with

TBRHSC as they continue their efforts in providing quality patient care. Since we were able to achieve an agreement, a scheduled peer review is not necessary.”

Ingrid Parkes is the Chair of the Board of Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. She says that she is, “satisfied that due diligence has been done to ensure that patients will continue to receive world-class acute care. Acute care services and budgets are inextricably tied together. We trust that we can cooperatively move forward.”

The President and CEO of Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, Ron Saddington, says that “the Agreement allows TBRHSC to continue to be a ‘best-practice’ healthcare facility. We respect our funding partners who understand that we offer special services to people in a vast region, but that these services come at a cost. I am grateful that the LHIN has responded to our current financial pressures and is committed to ensuring that acute care services are available to the citizens of Northwestern Ontario.”

## **QUICK FACTS**

- This is the first Hospital Service Accountability Agreement (H-SAA) that Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre negotiated with the North West LHIN. Hospitals previously negotiated with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.
- The H-SAA requires hospitals to submit a balanced budget for 2008-10. Hospitals have been required to submit and maintain balanced budgets since 1974.
- The H-SAA details a hospital’s operating plans for the next two years including its financial, organization and service volume targets, and negotiated performance obligations to contribute to the advance of the LHIN’s priorities for change to the health system in the northwest.
- There are 13 hospitals in the North West LHIN. All hospitals have now signed their 2008-10 H-SAA.
- The North West LHIN is responsible for planning, integrating and funding local health services--hospitals, long-term care facilities, the community care access centre, community health centres, community support services and mental health and addiction agencies. The North West LHIN and its Board of Directors are responsible for over \$535 million of health care services delivered in Northwestern Ontario.
- Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is a 375 bed state-of-the-art acute care facility service the healthcare needs of people living in Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario with an annual budget of \$272,000,000.

## **LEARN MORE**

For more information about the North West LHIN visit [www.northwestlhin.on.ca](http://www.northwestlhin.on.ca).

For more information about Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre visit [www.tbh.net](http://www.tbh.net)

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