

Board

- Guest: Tiffany Cecchetto, Partner, KPMG LLP
 - Tiffany presented the audited financial statements for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, together with a summary of audit findings and comparator data. The audit was completed in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standards with no disagreements with management, no scope limitations, and no significant deficiencies in internal controls. The Board approved the audited financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2026.
 - The Board also reviewed financial trends affecting Ontario hospitals during FY2025-2026, including ongoing economic pressures and increased operating costs. It was highlighted that DRDH continues to perform well relative to comparable organizations, maintaining a strong financial position while advancing significant capital development projects.
- The Board approved the Hospital Service Accountability Agreement (HSAA) Declaration of Compliance and the Broader Public Sector Accountability Act (BPSAA) Attestation, confirming the organization's compliance with provincial accountability, procurement, consultant use, expense, perquisite and lobbying requirements for the 2025-2026 reporting year.
- The Board approved a number of governance policy updates following annual review, including revisions to the Board of Directors Evaluation Process Policy to strengthen committee evaluation processes and Board member feedback. Amendments were also approved to the Expense and Reimbursement Policy, consolidating Chief of Staff reimbursement provisions into a single organizational policy while improving documentation requirements and accountability for expense claims.
- The Board approved a comprehensive governance initiative to further embed the patient voice into Board governance and organizational decision-making. Following extensive review by the Governance Committee, legal consultation and policy development over recent months, the Board approved a new Patient and Family Engagement Governance Policy, updated Patient and Family Advisory Council Terms of Reference, revised Duties and Expectations of Patient and Resident Representatives, and retirement of a redundant governance policy. These changes formalize a strengthened governance relationship between the Patient and Family Advisory Council and the Board of Directors, ensuring patient, resident and family perspectives are more directly integrated into governance discussions, strategic planning, organizational priorities and quality improvement initiatives.
- The Board received the 2026-2027 Corporate Scorecard and Operational Plan outlining organizational strategic objectives for the coming year. Progress against strategic priorities will continue to be reported regularly to the Board throughout the year.
- The Board received a report from the Nominating Committee, bringing forth nominations for the Board of Directors and Patient and Family Representatives. New Directors and Patient Representatives will be appointed at the organization's Annual General Meeting on June 23rd.

Annual Meeting

- The Board of Directors held its 52nd Annual Meeting for the 2025-2026 year on June 23, 2026. During the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors elected officers, directors and Patient/Resident Representatives to serve for the upcoming 2026-2027 Board year.
 - Appointed as the Board Executive are:

- Board Chair: David Cox
 - Vice Chair: Douglas Tennant
 - Vice Chair: Claudia Beswick
- The following Directors were renewed for three-year terms of office:
 - Elizabeth (Bessie) Burke
 - Douglas Tennant
 - Christian Kaiser
- The following new Directors were appointed to the board, for a three-year term:
 - Stéphanie Gagné
 - Angela Rintoul
- Recognition was provided to retiring Patient/Resident Representatives for their dedicated service and contributions to governance, with new Patient and Resident Representatives appointed to serve on Board Committees for the 2026-2027 Board year.
- KPMG LLP was re-appointed as the organization's external auditor for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.
- Annual Reports were received from the Board Chair, Chief Executive Officer, Long-Term Care Medical Director and Family Health Team Lead Physician, highlighting the organization's achievements, growth and key initiatives over the past year.
- The Annual Report, highlighting organizational accomplishments and activities throughout the 2025-2026 year, was approved, and can be viewed at [DRDH Annual Report 2025-2026](#)

Capital Development:

- The Board received updates on the Long-Term Care capital development project:
 - Construction activities continue, with drywall work started and exterior siding progressing well. Due to conditions and design coordination challenges, a 7-week delay has been realized on the total construction schedule. The project team has been working on response with the goal of mitigating the delay and looking at opportunities for schedule recovery.
 - Planning for Occupancy and Operationalization with the DRDH internal team continues. Development of furniture purchasing plans is underway, with vendors engaged and sample furniture arriving on site for resident and staff feedback. Work is underway to plan for resident move in, with development of move in and assessment schedules occurring. Development of job descriptions and orientation materials for current and new positions is additionally underway, with the goal to finalize this in May for inclusion in the first LTC Occupancy Plan submission, no later than July 31, 2026.
 - Following patient and resident feedback, a regular LTC Development newsletter has been started, to share regular updates on the project. These updates will be shared on a monthly basis to support increased, dedicated communication on the project and occupancy plans for team members, partners and the public. The newsletters may be viewed on the DRDH Website or social media pages.
- The Board also received updates on the Hospice Design and Program development:
 - Early conceptual work with the hospice design team continues, with an initial architectural review and design developed. Beginning in July, outreach will occur to various key partners and communities to help inform design and programming.
 - DRDH team members attended the Hospice Palliative Care Ontario Conference in June, building knowledge and relationships in this sector. Learning focused on hospice service delivery, caregiver supports and program development. Learning will be applied as programming is developed.

DRDH Foundation Updates

- The DRDH Foundation reported that planning continues for the annual Run for Home fundraising event on June 27, 2026. Funds raised through this year's event will support the Foundation's *Get on Board – Connecting Community* campaign, which will fund the purchase of an accessible community transportation vehicle to improve access to care and services throughout the region.
- As of mid-June, fundraising had reached approximately \$25,000, with the Foundation

anticipating close to \$40,000 will be raised through the event. The Board commended the Foundation Board of Directors, staff and volunteers for their continued commitment to supporting DRDH's strategic priorities and expanding community access to healthcare services.

Auxiliary Updates

- The Board received an update from the DRDH Auxiliary regarding operations of the Whistle Stop, noting that the store continues to perform well with strong inventory and community support. The Gift Shop has been temporarily closed during the Emergency Department renovation project due to restricted access to the main entrance.
- The Auxiliary also provided an update regarding ongoing efforts to secure a new long-term location for the Whistle Stop. Following a presentation to Deep River Town Council in June, discussions continue regarding potential alternative space that would better support future growth and long-term sustainability of the Auxiliary's operations.
- The Board acknowledged the ongoing space challenges and reaffirmed its appreciation for the Auxiliary's continued dedication and volunteer service, while expressing its support for efforts to identify a suitable long-term location for the Whistle Stop.

Health Campus Updates

Building Services

- New parking lot lighting was connected to emergency power, ensuring that lighting will be maintained outdoors in the event of a power outage.

Community Engagement

- On June 1, team members from across the organization held the first Pride Flag raising at the organization. Ongoing communication and launch of Positive Spaces, Gender Affirming Care clinics and partnership with the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI) are planned throughout the month of June.

Diagnostic Imaging

- Renewal of the radiology reading service contract is underway, with the goal to continue services with the virtual provider as well as expanding opportunities for integration and quality improvement.

Emergency Department

- The ED Modernization renovation continues, with flooring replacement now underway. A phased approach is being applied to ensure ongoing access to critical areas and ongoing operations. Public notice and signage are being shared prior to impacts in public areas. Ongoing work is expected to continue until mid-July.
- In collaboration with leadership at Pembroke Regional Hospital (PRH), a patient transfer algorithm has been successfully launched and is posted in both DRDH and PRH Emergency Departments. The goal of this pathway is to streamline communication and expectations related to admissions and transfers for enhanced imaging and/or consults.
- Discussions are underway with Renfrew Victoria Hospital (RVH) regarding potential mentorship opportunities for ED nurses, in particular newly graduated RNs.

Family Health Team

- The first MINT Memory Clinic will be occurring in the coming weeks. Patients are currently being contacted and booked into the clinic for assessment. The clinic will improve access to assessment, diagnosis, and support services for individuals living with memory-related conditions closer to home.

Health Records

- A partnership has been developed with Renfrew Victoria Hospital (RVH) for emergency and medical inpatient health record coding. This partnership, beginning July 1, was made possible by technological advancements undertaken by both organizations. RVH will perform coding and classification of DRDH ED and inpatient records. This partnership supports specialized skills in a position that was not able to be filled in person at DRDH, and replaces a previous outsourced contract at a lower cost.

Human Resources

- Work continues with correcting process errors and design flaws with the new fully electronic Scheduling System, with ongoing adjustment of workflows and staffing to support efficient use of the system.
- Recruitment for new leadership roles of the Manager of Community Programs and the VP of Community and Long-Term Care has begun, with the goal to have both positions filled over the coming months.

Information Technology

- On June 18th, DRDH participated in a regional code grey tabletop exercise. This exercise, involving 27 organizations, was a tabletop hosted by the LDG and TOH. Learnings will be shared regionally, and operational policies and procedures will be updated as required.

Infection Prevention and Control

- Direction has been shared in response to recent Ebola risks emerging from international travel. The IPAC team is reviewing direction provided and will be implementing precautionary flagging and isolation precautions for Ebola. Education for front-line staff and providers through tabletop discussions is underway.

Long-Term Care

- Residents celebrated Father's Day with a BBQ for friends and family in June, offering residents an opportunity to connect with loved ones as well as enjoy the outdoor patio space.
- Residents celebrated the third annual Long-Term Care day in June, as well as Seniors' month with education through Resident's Council and promotion on social media.

Medical Affairs & Recruitment

- The organization welcomed medical students and clerks for Community Weeks on May 25 and June 1. The medical residents and clerks visited Deep River, worked with local physicians and experienced rural medicine and life.
- An affiliation agreement has been re-signed with the University of Ottawa for the years 2026 – 2031 to support ongoing participation in medical education programs.

Medical Inpatient Unit

- The Medical Inpatient Unit recently upgraded three of their cardiac telemetry units, an important upgrade made possible through the generosity of the Black Bears Charity Hockey Tournament.

Nursing

- A total of 5 Clinical Externs have been successfully onboarded for the summer, leveraging funding from Ontario Health. Clinical Extern positions are funded through Ontario Health, and offer students undergoing clinical training programs (nursing, paramedicine, etc.) work experience early in clinical environments. Feedback related to the program has been positive from staff, patients and the Clinical Externs.
- Wound Care education was provided for clinical staff through Cardinal Health, providing hands-on practice and review in collaboration with the Clinical Scholars.

Organizational & Workforce Development

- As part of building capacity, Members of the leadership team participated in a professional education session focused on preventing workplace discrimination and harassment hosted by Advantage Ontario. This participation reflects the organization's continued commitment to leadership development, fostering safe and respectful workplaces, and ensuring leaders are equipped with current knowledge to support organizational culture, compliance, and effective people leadership.
- The *Where Every Person Matters* video, a key component of the organization's Employee Value Proposition (EVP) initiative, was recently launched accompanied by a news release (included as an attachment). This project is one of the main deliverables in the video project series, developed in partnership with team members from across the health campus. The video highlights the culture, values, opportunities, and sense of purpose that make DRDH a unique place to work, learn, volunteer, and receive care. The video supports ongoing recruitment, retention, and engagement efforts while showcasing the organization's continued growth, including the new Primary Care Building, new Four Seasons Lodge development, expanded community services, and future hospice program. Additional employee stories and videos will continue to be released throughout the year. The video can be viewed at: [DRDH: Where Every Person Matters](#) A news release accompanying the video series release was also shared, and is attached for information.

Regional & Provincial Partners

- The CEO attended the Garrison Change of Command ceremony at CFB Petawawa, welcoming in the new Commander of the 4th Division Support Group.
- A presentation on health campus activities and services, as well as LTC development and hospice progress was provided for the Senior Friendship Club at their Annual General Meeting in June.
- Team members from Human Resources, Nursing and the Foundation visited Bishop Smith High School in June to share career experience and highlight opportunities at DRDH and broader in healthcare. Information was shared on pathways and supports for entry into healthcare careers.
- Specialized High Skills Major students from Mackenzie Community School attending onsite to learn more about careers in healthcare and pathways available. Students will be participating in activities to develop marketing materials for healthcare recruitment and marketing.
- Leadership Team members visited the new offices of Mashkiwizii Manido Foundation in Pembroke, exploring upcoming partnership, education and service opportunities.

Quality

- A Quality of Care committee was convened in response to an unexpected death in the emergency department. The multi-disciplinary review of the incident was conducted to provide a non-judgmental, quality improvement focused opportunity to review the incident and identify learnings. Outcomes and improvement opportunities will be brought forward to the Emergency Department Committee as well as the Quality, Risk and Safety Committee.