

WLMH ranks as one of three best in Ontario

New hospital building approvals expected in early 2010

Grimsby, Ontario / October 5, 2009 – West Lincoln Memorial Hospital Board and WLMH Foundation provided an update on the hospital's new building project at the Grimsby Council meeting tonight. The Boards highlighted the findings of an independent operations review of the hospital that found, in terms of efficiency, the WLMH ranks as one of the three best in all the Province of Ontario.

WLMH Board member Kurt Whitnell explained the operations review has validated the Board's vision for the new hospital and its future health services. "We wanted to be certain that our healthcare goals and plans for the new hospital building remained both sound and necessary. The findings will certainly help with the planning for the new building and its future services."

WLMH Operations and Role Review key findings include:

- 1) WLMH is a model of efficiency and sustainability as one of the three best hospitals in Ontario – Quote: "WLMH is a magnet hospital for staff."
- 2) WLMH is well integrated - within the healthcare system and with community health services
- 3) WLMH Obstetrics is a very popular, sustainable program and a provincial / LHIN model
- 4) Family physicians find this smaller hospital and its services very attractive

The review was completed earlier this year by Consulting Cadre International Inc. The report was authored by Nan Brooks, an expert with considerable experience in hospital and medical operations, funding formula research and Ontario Ministry of Health consulting.

The WLMH Board also reported that the LHIN will begin its review of the new WLMH building after it completes its Clinical Services Plan, which is expected to be approved by the LHIN Board in December 2009.

"The LHIN has informed us we should expect a quick turn around when they are able to get to our hospital's new building review, sometime in early 2010," and WLMH CEO David Bird added, "We are doing everything we can to ensure the approval process is completed as soon as possible so the hospital can move on to contracting and constructing the new building."

The WLMH requires the LHIN's approval – followed by another approval from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The LHIN review will determine the services provided under the roof of the new building, while the Ministry reviews the design and costs of the hospital building and its services.

On-line the hospital has posted the Grimsby Council presentation. The public can view the presentation and learn more about the new building project by visiting the WLMH website - www.wlmh.on.ca.

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