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**ANNUAL REPORT-**

**April 1, 2014- March 31, 2015**



As we complete our fifteenth year of operation, it is with pride that I present the report of the President and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Health Partners Inc. – Catholic Health International for the period April 1st, 2014 to March 31st, 2015.

The year focused mainly on education, finances and strategic planning. The Board of Directors met on a regular basis throughout the year as required by the By-Laws and addressed requests, issues and/or concerns of the various Corporations. The Board ensures through accountability documents and CHI staff site visits that the various Corporations operating under its umbrella are adhering to the Mission and Philosophy of Catholic Health Partners Inc, the founding Religious Institutes and within the sound moral principles and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. We continue to use the operating name of Catholic Health International as approved by all government agencies.

During the past year, a new mission statement for Catholic Health Partners Inc was established during a Strategic Planning session. The new mission statement is as follows: “Catholic Health International is committed to the healing ministry of Jesus in the Spirit of the Founding Sisters.”

I will speak to the Strategic planning session later in my report.

Again this year, a great deal of time was spent on the implementation of the Centre for Excellence in Leadership. As mentioned in previous reports, this Centre, approved by the Board of Directors, includes five (5) Pillars: Catholic Healthcare Leadership; Values Integration Assessment Program; Ethics; Spiritual & Religious Care/Pastoral Care; and Mission Development. Adjustments were made to the Chairs and the Sponsors within a couple of pillars this was generated by changing staff and Board members. The Pillars are geographically and linguistically represented.

The Pillars continue to implement a number of activities to further the mission of Catholic Health Partners Inc. A survey document has been prepared and discussions are presently taking place between our Vice-President of Operations and the individual CEOs, Administrators, and Facility Managers to determine the needs in each facility. As a result, over the coming year, programs will be developed by the individual pillar to address these needs on an individual and collective basis.

Of importance this year was the scheduling of the Values Integration Assessment program surveys for all Corporations within Catholic Health International. Dates have been established with facilities to the end of 2016 with the mandate that all facilities will be surveyed within a 5 year time frame.

The formation and education of Members, Boards, Senior Leadership and all of those involved in our various ministries continues to be a priority. We continue to specifically place importance on the education of Leadership at all levels with a view to expansion of these programs to all staff and volunteers. As a result of this initiative the following was developed:

- A site visit to three of our ministries by all of our Senior Leadership Team and CHI Board members took place in the Fall of 2014. The facilities were located in New London and Antigo, Wisconsin in the United States;
- A continued provision of our Catholic Leadership Program in both official languages to staff in all facilities. Currently there are 32 students in this program. In the Spring of 2016 we will have 120 graduates.;
- Publication and implementation of a new Missioning Ceremony for board members and senior leadership in each facility and will be conducted on an annual basis;
- Implementation of the new Board Orientation Guide is underway with several facilities being visited. A copy of this booklet is provided to all Board members and Senior Leaders of our ministries to assist them in understanding roles and responsibilities at all levels;
- The trustees Leadership Program developed by the Catholic Health Association of Ontario continues to be implemented throughout our system;
- Boards have begun the use of the new self-evaluation tool;
- The “Working Together” booklet continues to be used as an adjacent tool to the Board Orientation Guide. This booklet provides key indicators for use on an annual basis to assist with all accountability documents;
- The monthly newsletter “The Torch” is distributed electronically to all board members, religious institutes, bishops, senior leaders and a number of external organizations.

During the year a refresher program was offered to the Alumni, the Catholic Health International graduates of the Catholic Leadership Program. These were held in conjunction with the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick and the Catholic Health Association of Ontario annual conferences. This also provided for participants to attend the education sessions of both of these provincial associations.

By-Laws for all Corporations were reviewed and revised to meet the new criteria under Federal and Provincial Acts. Corporate returns were filed with Corporate Affairs in each province for both Catholic Health International and the individual corporations as required. Additionally, the Charity Return for the corporation was filed with the Charities Directorate, Canada Revenue Agency.

A number of new policies were developed and approved during the past year. A complete review of all policies was completed. The policies are available on our secure website. This past year we distributed policies manuals to all of our facilities.

In February, again this year, World Day of the Sick was promoted in all our facilities. Catholic Health International supplied printed materials to all facilities including posters, cards, and a suggested prayer service. All of this was done in keeping with our official languages policy.

The Catholic Health Alliance of Canada held its major conference in Ottawa. Catholic Health International had thirty-four (34) representatives attend. We consistently have the largest attendance at this national conference by any Catholic organization in Canada.

Catholic Health International completed its fourth and final year of its Strategic Plan and held a retreat to develop a new three to five year plan in March of 2015. The Catholic Health Alliance of Canada recently completed a new strategic plan; therefore Catholic Health International aligned its new plan with the CHAC. As a result of this retreat, as mentioned, a new Mission statement was prepared. The Board focused on three Strategic Directions: Proclaim; Serve; and Witness. The goals and objectives for the new plan will be developed around these Directions. A draft of the Plan will be presented to the Board at their Annual meeting in June of this year.

Work continues on the Catholic Health International website to keep it current and updated to make it more user friendly.

The "Volunteer Excellence Award" continues to be utilized by the ministries within our system. The award is presented to an individual in each Facility based on a recommendation from the Facility and recognizes their contribution to the organization.

The Advisory Chair Council continues to meet on a regular basis and provides an opportunity for the Advisory Committee chairpersons in New Brunswick to meet to express/discuss concerns or issues within the hospital system. The representatives of the Region Health Authorities attend these meetings as well.

The Leadership Councils meet on a regular basis, Spring and Fall of each year with excellent attendance by all CEOs, Executive Directors, Facility Managers, and Administrators. These sessions provide a face to face opportunity for dialogue on issues, concerns, new developments, best practices, etc. within our entire system.

We continue to have an excellent working relationship with the Government of the province of New Brunswick and the provincial Department of Health. They continue to adhere to the terms of the Agreement signed by the province with the owners of Catholic hospitals. During the past year a new government was elected having campaigned on the issue of easier access to the right to abortion. We were successful in ensuring these procedures were and will not be done in any of our Catholic facilities. We have this in writing from the Minister of Health and the CEOs of the Region Health Authorities. We at the same time protested the stand of government on the right to life issue.

On the Federal scene, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in favour of physician assisted suicide. We are working very closely with the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada in preparing a work plan to address this issue. The Federal Government, at this point, because of an upcoming election, are not prepared to change the legislation. CHAC lawyers and ethicists are working on this for the Sponsors across Canada.

We currently have a number of facilities under renovation or new construction. Many of these projects will be completed by the Fall of 2016.

The Finance Committee of the Board of Directors meets on a regular basis, reviews and recommends financial matters to the Board. During the past year, we were able to further develop the Catholic Health Partners Foundation with a substantial contribution by one of our Sister partners. This contribution will ensure the longevity of Catholic Health International. An investment committee is in place to monitor the Foundation and we have contracted with the consulting firm, PensuL from Montreal, Quebec to provide assistance, guidance and monthly reports regarding our investments. We continue to operate in a fiscally responsible manner. The financial situation has now provided the organization with the opportunity to fund additional education programs in many of our facilities.

Human Resources Canada, under their Career Placement Program continues to provide CHP with a student grant for the summer months. In partnership with the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick we were able to hire a student from the 1st of June to the end of August. The students provide clerical assistance in the corporate office, and provide an invaluable service to the organization. More importantly, this annual program provides an opportunity for students to grasp a greater understanding of Catholic health care. We were recently approved for 2015.

A Vice-President of Operations was appointed in February on a part-time basis until July of 2016 at which time the position will become full time. A number structural organizational change will be implemented during the coming year as a result of the Strategic Plan implementation once finally approved.

Catholic Health International continues to be a full partner in the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (CHAC) having representation on the Board of Governors. Additionally, Catholic Health International is a partner in the Ontario Alliance of Sponsors. As reported, this group is made up of the Catholic Sponsors operating in the province of Ontario. CHI is also a member of the Catholic Health Association of Ontario, the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick and the Catholic Health Association of the United States. CHI holds membership in the Ontario Hospital Association, the Ontario Long Term Care Association and a number of other health and church related organizations.

At the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors was reappointed for a one year period as outlined in the by-laws. Confirmation of appointments was received from the Partners.

In these difficult and challenging times, leaders of health care facilities and particularly of Catholic health care facilities are faced with an immense operational and financial environment. As mentioned, in previous reports, Catholic health care is an essential ministry of the Catholic Church and we are more than caretakers of this wonderful ministry – we are bearers of a tradition of service and ethical reflection.

Catholic Health International through the Mission Pillar in the Centre for Excellence in Leadership continues to prepare an audit of all our facilities with reference to the amount of free care and support for the underprivileged, the vulnerable and the disadvantaged. In the past year several millions of dollars were allocated to this by the facilities within our system.

Catholic healthcare has been in existence in North America for over 379 years and there is still the desire to remain faithful to our mission. Lay structure of ownership, governance and sponsorship has been

established which will assure the health care ministry continues as part of the Catholic church and the desire to continue the legacy of the founding Religious Institutes.

As we prepare our organization to meet the needs of the future, we ask for your prayers and guidance as we commit ourselves ....to perpetuate the healing ministry of the church in the spirit of the founding Sisters.

Respectfully,

Robert B. Stewart, PhD  
President & Chief Executive Officer

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