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**ANNUAL REPORT-**

**April 1, 2015- March 31, 2016**



As the President and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Health Partners Inc. – Catholic Health International, I hereby present my operational report for the period April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016

This year the organization dealt with many pressing issues including the Canadian Supreme Court decision ordering the Federal Government to develop legislation by June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to permit Physician Assisted Dying (PAD). Catholic Health Partners has worked very closely with the Canadian Conference of Bishops, the local Bishops within our jurisdictions, the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, the Ontario Alliance of Sponsors, the Catholic Health Association of Ontario and the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick on this issue. At the time of writing this report, neither the Federal Government nor the Provincial governments have developed any legislation to deal with this very critical issue. There is a very real need to have a consistent statement for Catholic facilities across Canada, therefore, Catholic Health Partners will continue to work very closely with our partners to develop a statement which will be consistent through the Catholic health world in Canada.

The Board of Directors met on a regular basis throughout the year as required by the by-laws to address requests, issues and/or concerns of the various Corporations. Accountability documents and CHI staff site visits ensure that the various Corporations operating under its umbrella are adhering to the Mission of Catholic Health Partners : *“Catholic Health International is committed to the healing ministry of Jesus in the Spirit of the Founding Sisters.”* We continue to operate under the name of Catholic Health International as approved by all government agencies. We also believe our work revolves around sound moral principles and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

During the year a survey of our facilities was initiated to determine the extent of services provided within those facilities in relation to Spiritual & Religious Care, Mission Development, and Ethics. This survey should be completed early in the coming year, the results of which will

determine the extent to which Catholic Health Partners will support these programs through our *Centre for Excellence in Leadership*. It is expected that new programs will be developed over the coming year to address any needs or areas showing deficiencies. 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. Changes in staff and Board members occasionally cause adjustments to be made to the Chairs of the Pillars within the Centre. The Pillars are geographically and linguistically represented.

The Values Integration Assessment program is well under way with a number of facilities being assessed at the time of this report. A number of facilities will be assessed during the coming year. All of the facilities under the umbrella of Catholic Health Partners have been scheduled to be assessed over the next five years.

Education of Members, Boards, Senior Leadership and all involved in our various ministries continues to be a priority. We again this year, place strong 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 for our CHI Board, Leadership Team, and CEOs took place at Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre in St. Catharine's Ontario;
- The Leadership Council meets twice per year on a regular basis – Spring and Fall with full attendance by all CEOs and CHI Staff.
- In April of 2015 our regularly scheduled Plenary Session was held in Montreal with the CEOs and Board Chairs together with the CHI Board of Directors and Management Team. Key note speakers included top leaders in Catholic Healthcare in both Canada and the United States. The Plenary session is held every two years as an education/orientation session for new Board Chairs.
- Continued provision of our Catholic Healthcare Leadership Program in both official languages to staff in all facilities. Currently there are 18 students in the French Program with graduation scheduled for May 2016 and a number of students registered for the English program schedule for the Fall of 2016. There are now approximately 150 graduates;
- The Alumni of graduates will be meeting in New Brunswick prior to the Annual Meeting in September 2016 and in Ontario, prior to the Provincial Associations meeting, in the fall of 2017.
- Missioning ceremonies were held in many facilities over the past year and will continue in the coming year;
- Implementation of the new Board Orientation Guide is well underway and will continue in the coming year as well. 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 “Working Together” booklet continues to be used as an adjacent tool to the Board Orientation Guide.;
- Boards are now using the new self-evaluation computerized tool developed by Catholic Health International
- The monthly newsletter “The Torch” is distributed electronically to all board members, religious institutes, bishops, senior leaders, and a number of external organizations.

Many major issues developed over the past year which were or are being addressed by the Catholic Health Partners Board of Directors. They relate to pressures in the Ontario region for further integration of services, particularly in the Kingston and St. Catharine’s area. Negotiations continue with and for these organizations. We expect a positive outcome.

In Ontario, pressure from the Local Integration Health Networks (LIHNs) together with financial pressure from the Provincial Government are making it very difficult to avoid looking at some form of further integration of our facilities. We are looking very cautiously at any opportunity to alleviate this problem.

Restructuring of the Francophone Health Authority in New Brunswick became a major concern for Catholic Health Partners over the past few months; however, we were able to overcome the problem through negotiation. The result of this is not only the reinstallation of our Facility Managers, but a much stronger relationship with the Region Health Authority. The President and Vice-Presidents of that organization were invited to take the Catholic Healthcare Leadership program we offer. They are showing an interest with one registered for the program in 2016 – 2017.

By-Laws of all Corporations have now been reviewed and revised to meet not only the new criteria under Federal and Provincial Acts, but to reflect our operations. Corporate returns, as required, were filed with Corporate Affairs in each province for both Catholic Health International and the individual corporations. Additionally, the Charity Return for the corporation was filed with the Charities Directorate, Canada Revenue Agency.

A Strategic Plan was developed at a retreat of the Board of Directors, in March 2015, based on three strategic directions: Proclaim, Serve, and Witness. The objectives were circulated to all of the CEOs and Facility Managers of our facilities for their input. Management is meeting, in retreat, to prepare an action plan for the Board at the Annual Meeting in June 2016

The Catholic Health Alliance of Canada held its conference this past year in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Catholic Health International again had the highest participation of

organizations outside of Saskatchewan. We consistently have the largest attendance at this national conference by a Catholic organization in Canada.

In February, World Day of the Sick was promoted in all our facilities. Catholic Health International supplied printed materials to all facilities including posters, cards and suggested prayers. Materials were also sent to a number of secular facilities as well. All of this done in keeping with our official languages policy.

Catholic Health International website is kept current and updated regularly. Under the strategic plan the website will be reviewed and revised to make it more 'user friendly'.

An award is available to each facility to be presented to an individual who volunteers their time to the facility. The "Volunteer Excellence Award" is a presentation of Catholic Health International.

Regular meetings of the Advisory Chair Council are held to provide an opportunity for the Advisory Committee Chairpersons in the Catholic Hospitals of New Brunswick to discuss/express concerns or issues within the hospital system. The representatives holding Catholic seats on the Region Health Authorities attend these meetings as well.

The provincial Government and the Department of Health in the province of New Brunswick continues to adhere to the terms of the *Agreement* signed by the province with the owners of Catholic hospitals. There is an excellent working relationship with Government, Department of Health, and the Department of Social Development.

We currently have a number of facilities under renovation or new construction. Much of this work will be completed within the next year. A new ambulatory hospital at St. Bernard's in Chicago is scheduled to open in May 2016.

Major renovations are underway at Mount Saint Joseph Nursing Home in Miramichi and the provincial government has announced a replacement Home for this facility. Catholic Health International, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Mount Saint Joseph submitted a proposal to construct and operate the new facility. We are awaiting a decision.

Construction continues on the new Nursing Home – Villa St. Joseph du Lac at Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. The resident's are now in the new facilities; however, there has been a delay in the opening due to funding issues around the renovations to the areas being retained from the former historic building. These should be resolved in the very near future.

A new home in the Edmundston area of New Brunswick forced the closure of Foyer St. Joseph de St Basile. The residents were transferred to the new facility. We are presently working with the provincial government to repurpose the building or determine its fate.

In the past year we have entertained requests for Legacy celebrations. Saint Joseph's Hospital in Saint John, New Brunswick celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and this year Stella Maris de Kent Hospital in Ste Anne de Kent, New Brunswick will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Catholic Health International is planning to install a legacy wall in each of those facilities comprising of a mural of the history of the founding of the hospital celebrating the work of the founding Sisters. Requests have also been received from St. Quentin and Caraquet.

The Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, as part of their legacy in the Saint John area continue to fund a Mission educator for St. Joseph's hospital and Rocmaura Nursing Home. This position will be administered by Catholic Health International.

Financially Catholic Health International operates in an efficient and effective manner. A small surplus was produced for the previous year. Because of the Catholic Health Partners Foundation, the longevity of Catholic Health International is assured. The markets around the world have not produced the results we were expecting; however, the investment committee of the Foundation has, through our portfolio manager, ensured a realistic return on our investments. The committee constantly monitors the markets through our contracted consulting firm, PBI of Montreal. As the return improves, it will provide an opportunity for Catholic Health International to fund additional education programs in many of our facilities and through our *Centre For Excellence in Leadership*.

Human Resources Canada, under their Canada Summer Job 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 early May to September. The students provide clerical assistance in the main 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 have been extremely fortunate to have very smart and capable students each year.

Our Vice- President of Operations, David Levangie has been working with the organization on a part time basis over the past year. He will move to full time later this Spring. David is enthusiastic about his new role. I am confident the organization will benefit from David's expertise in several areas, particularly in Mission and Ethics.

Catholic Health International continues to be a full partner in the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (CHAC) including representation on the Board of Governors. CHP also financially supports a student in ethics along with other Sponsors in Canada and the CHAC.

Catholic Health International is a partner in the Ontario Alliance of Sponsors; the Catholic Health Association of Ontario; the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick; the Ontario Hospital Association; the Ontario Long Term Care Association; the Catholic Health Association of the United States and a number of other health and church related organizations.

The Board of Directors of Catholic Health International was reappointed for a one year period as per the by-laws.

Catholic Health International through the Mission Pillar in the *Centre For Excellence In Leadership* continues to promote and support our facilities in their promotion of care and support for the underprivileged, the vulnerable and the disadvantaged. Several millions of dollars were allocated to this by the facilities within our system and we sincerely thank them.

Catholic health care administrators work in 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.

For over 380 years, Catholic health care has existed in North America 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.

We ask for prayers and guidance as we commit ourselves to the future....*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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