

CEO Update April 2017

After several months of drafting, planning, organizing, and preparing, we finally have our Hospice Centre open! This has been in the planning stages for a long time and is very much needed in our community. The Hospice Center is an innovative model, which integrates the strength and expertise of palliative care in the community and the hospital. Together, with our community partners, this Centre was created for patients to live their remaining days, in dignity and comfort, surrounded by the people who love them, when care at home is no longer possible.

At the end of October 2016, the NELHIN announced that the hospital will receive annual funding of \$420,000, for four hospice beds. With the support of the NELHIN, renovations, décor updates and equipment purchases were initiated in early December. The Timmins Hospice Centre admitted their first patients the week of February 27th, 2017.

On February 24th, the staff of TADH was invited to an internal open house of the Hospice Centre. What a great turn out it was! We've had numerous staff members visit, from the clinical and support teams. We were very fortunate that the hospital was able to provide a wing on the second floor to develop this peaceful setting for patients and their families.

On March 24th, we had our Grand Opening with media coverage. Hospital Board members, staff/managers, construction workers, NELHIN representatives, community partners, local politicians and a family member of a hospice Centre, joined in the celebrations. Following the ceremony, Mayor Steven Black, accompanied by the Hospice Centre team, helped cut the ribbon to mark the beginning of a great journey.

Since the day we've opened, we've had continuous positive feedback from everyone. We've had comments from staff, physicians, patients, family members, and on social media. Patient comfort and family support are the primary goals of our palliative care unit.

This is a great Centre for our hospital and our community and I can only see great things in the horizon!

Sincerely,

Blaise MacNeil
President & CEO