



MONTHLY CEO REPORT

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SEPTEMBER 2023**

Monthly CEO Report – September 2023

The summer was an exciting time at LHSC as we advanced our new Strategic Plan and celebrated inclusion within the communities we serve. Team LHSC has been actively recognizing our academic mandate through our first-ever Education Week and research tours with federal elected officials.



Strategic Priorities

Implementing the Ontario eHub Health Information Exchange

In July, we launched [LHSC's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan](#) by sharing a story of our plan in action. We highlighted our collaboration with a network of Ontario hospitals, Ontario Health, TransForm Shared Service Organization and Oracle Health to [successfully implement the Ontario eHub Health Information Exchange \(HIE\)](#). This first-of-its-kind and state-of-the-art health information exchange system allows LHSC to share health information so that patient care needs are available within 30 minutes of discharge from the hospital to alternative care sites, such as long-term care homes.

Impact on LHSC:

The eHub project is a significant step forward in bringing LHSC's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan to life. It simplifies and expedites the data sharing process between LHSC and other health care organizations to create more seamless transitions in care. It is advancing our strategic priority of 'integrated care' through digital transformation.

Recognizing Emancipation Day

For the first time, Team LHSC recognized Emancipation Day by participating in WEAN Community Centre's Emancipation Day event from August 26-27. Our team actively participated by sharing insights on our commitment to advancing Black health, equity and inclusion at LHSC and in the community.

Impact on LHSC:

LHSC is dedicated to enhancing health equity for everyone. Our Office of Inclusion and Social Accountability has recently expanded to include a Black Health stream of work. Involving local voices and engaging with community members is a critical first step as we work to better tailor the care we provide to those we aim to serve.



Team LHSC celebrates Pride 2023

In June and July, Team LHSC came together to celebrate Pride 2023 by attending numerous events, wearing Pride merchandise and taking part with two floats and several hundred Team LHSC members participating in the London Pride Parade – all in a show of support for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. A video recapping Team LHSC's Pride events is available on [our LinkedIn](#).

Impact on LHSC:

LHSC is deeply committed to advancing health equity and inclusion for all those we serve, and to creating an inclusive environment for all members of Team LHSC. Recognizing and celebrating Pride is one way that our organization shows support for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.



Organizational Updates

Media coverage

The Communications team issued six proactive communications with media throughout July and August, including three media pitches, one op-ed, and two media releases. A total of 45 reactive media requests were fulfilled.

The following metrics highlight total media activity:

July 2023

- Total news media mentions (media exposure): 223
 - Positive: 112 (55%)
 - Neutral: 89 (40%)
 - Negative: 12 (5%)
- Total potential reach (number of people who saw LHSC mentioned in the news): 195M
- Earned media value (how much LHSC would have to spend on ad placement in order to achieve this type of coverage): \$1.8M
- Key phrases most frequently associated with LHSC in media hits between July 1 and 31 included:
 - 'innovative technologies'
 - 'advanced digital solutions'
 - 'medical technology'
 - 'solutions'
- Top stories by reach in July included:
 - [LHSC launches first-of-its-kind eHub program | CTV News](#)
 - [LHSC launches new system to streamline transfer of patient information - London | Globalnews.ca](#)
 - [London hospitals: Housing the homeless is health care | London Free Press \(lfpres.com\)](#)

August 2023

- Total news media mentions (media exposure): 175
 - Positive: 157 (90%)
 - Neutral: 12 (7%)
 - Negative: 6 (3%)
- Total potential reach (number of people who saw LHSC mentioned in the news): 90.6M*

- *A patient story ([Sarah's story](#)) accounted for 70M in reach for August
- Earned media value (how much LHSC would have to spend on ad placement in order to achieve this type of coverage): \$838k
- Key phrases most frequently associated with LHSC in media hits between August 1 and 31 included 'staff member'.
- Top stories by reach in August included:
 - **Sarah's story, which appeared in international publications in Ukraine (Globe and Mail subsidiary), India, UAE, Spain, United Kingdom, Nigeria, Pakistan and the United States**
 - [Ontario 'miracle' woman wakes up from coma just days before her wedding | Globalnews.ca](#)
 - [London woman awakes from medically-induced coma four days before wedding | CTV News](#)
 - [Her dream of walking down the aisle was nearly shattered, then she came out of her coma | CBC News](#)

Impact on LHSC:

Effective media relations assists in successfully telling LHSC's stories to the communities we serve. Top stories by reach included Sarah's story, LHSC's eHub Ontario project, and research on long COVID and fecal transplants. In addition, we received media coverage on internationally educated nurses, code whites, Health and Homelessness, MRI appointments and a digital storytelling pilot program for seniors.

Funding boosts palliative education for providers to bolster patient care

At the beginning of 2023, the Government of Ontario in partnership with Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) and the Ontario Palliative Care Network provided approximately \$305,000 towards palliative care education for health care providers within the South West Regional Cancer Program (SWRCP). This was part of a broader provincial strategy to increase health professionals' knowledge and skills aligned to the Ontario Palliative Care Competency Framework. [The funding is now being used to support palliative education](#), including through the Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) Indigenous Cancer Care Unit, which aims to improve cancer care with and for Indigenous Peoples in Ontario.

Impact on LHSC:

Palliative education is crucial to advancing palliative care. At LHSC, we are committed to advancing health equity, including with and for Indigenous Peoples. This funding is helping to advance palliative care in partnership with Indigenous communities.



Ontario invests \$330 million to expand children’s health care across province

On July 19, the Government of Ontario [announced a historic investment of \\$330 million](#) to expand children’s health care across the province. Representatives from Ontario children’s hospitals, including Children’s Hospital at LHSC, were on-site in Ottawa for the announcement.

Impact on LHSC:

This investment will allow children’s hospitals, including Children’s Hospital at LHSC, and community-based providers across the province to expand services and reduce wait times for essential children’s health care services, including surgeries, procedures, diagnostic imaging, mental health treatment, and child development and rehabilitation. This will allow providers to run more operating rooms, open more beds, expand clinics, hire more staff, and, perhaps most importantly, deliver more innovative programs in partnership.



Research tours with federal elected officials

Over the past two months, LHSC and St. Joseph’s Health Care London have hosted federal elected officials to showcase research and innovation across our hospitals.

- MP Karen Vecchio (Elgin-Middlesex-London) visited Children’s Hospital on Wednesday, August 9 to tour research and innovation in women’s and paediatric care;
- MP Peter Fragiskatos (London North Centre) visited Victoria Hospital on Thursday, August 10 to learn about imaging and theranostics research enabled by our new PET/CT;
- MP Lianne Rood (Lambton-Kent-Middlesex) visited St. Joseph’s Hospital today (August 11) to learn about cutting-edge collaboration happening between the microbiome and infectious diseases programs at St. Joseph’s and our cancer research team at LHSC; and
- The Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health, and MP Fragiskatos visited University Hospital on Tuesday, September 12 to learn about our orthopaedics research and innovations in cardiac surgery.

Together, we had rich and thoughtful discussion on the following topics:

- The importance of investment in federal research funding to enable innovation that advances patient care;
- Policy development related to research and innovation; and
- Constituent interest on topics like wait times and access to primary care.

Impact on LHSC:

Engagement and collaboration with government officials is critical to the achievement of LHSC's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. We share a collective commitment to the communities we serve and a shared vision of improved health outcomes for Londoners, Ontarians and Canadians. The federal government is a key partner in advancing research as we transform health, together.



Celebrating our inaugural Education Week

LHSC hosted its inaugural Education Week from September 11-15, consisting of several in-person and virtual events to recognize those who support teaching at LHSC. The week included educational sessions, a simulation symposium and the presentation of the first-ever LHSC Teaching Awards to celebrate those who've been instrumental in driving our education mandate forward.

Impact on LHSC:

As a research-intensive acute care teaching hospital, education is a key part of our purpose. More than 4,000 learners walk through our doors each year. These learners, in addition to our educators, preceptors and academic partners, make a positive impact on our hospitals and wider community each day. Celebrating education and advancement in care through learning is critical to sustaining a culture of academic excellence.



External Landscape

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau shuffles Cabinet

In July, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a new Cabinet team, including a new Minister of Health and Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

- Mark Holland, the Minister of Parliament (MP) for Ajax and former Government House Leader, was named as the new Minister of Health. Minister Holland previously served as the Executive Director of the Ontario Chapter of the Heart and Stroke Foundation.
- Ya'ara Saks, MP for York Centre, was named the Minister for Mental Health and Addictions. Before her election in 2020, Saks was a successful small business owner and a strong advocate for better access to mental health services as a founder and director of Trauma Practice for Healthy Communities, a Toronto-based mental health charity.

Several Ministers remain in their current roles, including Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry.

Impact on LHSC:

LHSC is committed to working with federal elected officials to advance health care, research and innovation. We have been meeting with several local Members of Parliaments (MPs) and Minister Mark Holland to discuss the importance of hospital-based research in our country.

Premier Doug Ford announces changes to Cabinet

In September, Premier Doug Ford announced changes to his Cabinet. Changes to the Executive Council include the following:

- Paul Calandra becomes Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
- Prabmeet Sarkaria becomes Minister of Transportation;
- Caroline Mulroney becomes President of the Treasury Board;
- Stan Cho becomes Minister of Long-Term Care;
- Rob Flack becomes Associate Minister of Housing with a specific mandate on attainable housing and modular homes reporting to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
- Todd McCarthy becomes Associate Minister of Transportation reporting to the Minister of Transportation; and
- Nina Tangri becomes Associate Minister of Small Business reporting to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.

Andrea Khanjin will have an expanded role and will assume additional responsibilities as Deputy Government House Leader reporting to Paul Calandra, who will remain Government House Leader. Caroline Mulroney will remain Minister of Francophone Affairs. All other ministers maintain their existing portfolios.

Impact on LHSC:

Working with provincial elected officials is critical to transforming the health care system. We share a commitment to advancing patient care for Ontarians. LHSC is committed to continued collaboration with the Government of Ontario to drive health care forward.

Ontario announces home care modernization

On September 11, the Government of Ontario [announced upcoming changes](#) to the provincial home care sector designed to maximize patient experience and continuity of care while strengthening the recruitment and retention of care providers. Through this modernization, the government will:

- Consolidate the 14 regional Home and Community Care Support Services organizations into a single shared services body;
- Modernize the home care contracting process to support hospital to home transitions and advance new and innovative models of care delivery; and
- Gradually transfer responsibility for the delivery of home care services to Ontario Health Teams (OHTs).

Impact on LHSC:

Home care is an essential part of the Ontario health care system. LHSC collaborates closely with Home and Community Care Support Services to support patient transitions in care, and will continue to do so throughout the transition. LHSC is also a partner in the Middlesex London Ontario Health Team and we are committed to working with our partners through this gradual transfer of responsibilities.

Ontario Hospital Association submits pre-budget recommendations to Government of Canada

On August 4, the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) [submitted recommendations](#) to the Government of Canada's Finance Committee in advance of the 2024 Federal Budget. The OHA listed three key recommendations for consideration:

- The Government of Canada invest in the implementation of the 21 recommendations of the Advisory Panel on the Federal Research Support System, outlined in their [2023 report](#).
- The Government of Canada double its current investment in the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), and maintain this level of investment in out-years to remain globally competitive.

- The Government of Canada increase the number and value of graduate scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships available through the Tri-Agencies (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) by expanding the number of awards by 50 per cent, and by establishing minimum values of \$25,000 for graduate scholarships and \$35,000 for postdoctoral fellowships.

The Finance Committee's hearings will begin October/November 2023 and run until February/March 2024. Over the next few months, the OHA will be following up on the submission, and engaging with decision-makers and advocates on the three budget priorities.

Impact on LHSC:

As a research-intensive acute care teaching hospital, LHSC is actively engaged in dialogue with OHA, HealthCareCAN, Research Canada and federal elected officials on the importance of investment in health research. We look forward to continued collaboration to support the advancement of hospital-based research in our country.

Seasonal Respiratory Pathogens Readiness Guide

Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health has shared the [Seasonal Respiratory Pathogens Readiness and Response Planning Guide](#) for the 2023/24 fall and winter seasons when the risk from influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19 are expected to be atypical compared to pre-pandemic years. The guide was developed by the Ministry of Health to help support health system readiness and set expectations for health system partners. It also includes the current respiratory pathogens risk outlook and planning scenarios to support planning activities.

Impact on LHSC:

Team LHSC plays a significant role in caring for the communities we serve during the fall and winter respiratory season. This guide will be considered carefully as we plan for our readiness and operational response at LHSC.

Ontario expanding access to midwifery services

The Government of Ontario has [announced an investment of \\$8.27 million](#) for new and expanded midwifery services across the province that will connect thousands of families to faster care in their own community. This funding includes \$4.82 million to expand midwifery services in community health centres, hospitals, family health teams and existing midwifery practices, as well as \$3.45 million to support future initiatives put forward by health care providers to expand midwifery services in their community.

Health care providers can submit proposals to receive funding to expand access to midwifery service in hospitals or through primary health, team-based comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care. Up to \$3.45 million is available, including \$1.45 million for the province's Indigenous Midwifery Program, which includes Indigenous Midwives working within interprofessional primary health care teams to expand Indigenous-led midwifery services in urban, rural, northern and on-reserve Indigenous communities.

Impact on LHSC:

Midwifery is a key program of care at LHSC and our team is advancing innovation with the communities we serve. We look forward to working across the health care system to further advance midwifery services.