

October 27, 2023

## Board of Directors – Public Minutes

Mill River Resort

1 to 4 pm

---

- Chair:** Ms. Diane Griffin
- Members:** Mr. Peter MacDonald, Ms. Helen Flynn, Dr. Richard Wedge (Vice Chair), Ms. Megan Cheverie, Ms. Colleen Parker, Ms. Jennifer Evans, Dr. William Montelpare
- HPEI Staff:** Dr. Michael Gardam, CEO  
Ms. Belinda White, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Gina Beeley, Assistant to the Board (recorder)
- Guests:** Michele Beaton, Nurses PEI Union  
Barbara Brookins, Nurses PEI Union  
Eva Rogerson, Chair, O’Leary Community Health Foundation  
Alma Rix, O’Leary Community Health Foundation  
Kevin MacLeod, O’Leary Community Health Foundation  
Gail Shaw, O’Leary Community Health Foundation  
Lorraine Savory, O’Leary Community Health Foundation  
Jacquie Collicutt, O’Leary Community Health Foundation  
Dave Pizio, Western Hospital Foundation  
Marlene Bolger, Western Hospital Foundation  
Florence Cahill, Western Hospital Foundation

### **4.0 CONVENING THE MEETING**

Ms. Diane Griffin, chair welcomed our guests and the meeting convened at 1:02pm

#### **4.1 Declaration of Conflicts**

There were no conflicts declared

#### **4.2 Review of Agenda**

The Chair reviewed the agenda for the public session

**MOTION:** It was moved by Dr. William Montelpare and seconded by Ms. Helen Flynn to approve the October 27, 2023 Agenda

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **5.0 CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

### **5.2 Correspondence**

The Chair reported correspondence from Medical Society of PEI regarding their role in recruitment. The Chair will be sending a letter of acknowledgement and has passed the matter to Dr. Michael Gardam as the issues raised in the letter are operational.

### **5.1 Health PEI Board Minutes**

June 28, 2023 minutes have been circulated to the Board.

**MOTION: It was moved by Dr. William Montelpare and seconded by Ms. Colleen Parker to approve the minutes from June 28, 2023 as circulated.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **6.0 BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **6.1 CEO Report to Islanders**

Dr. Gardam addressed concerns, the highlights included:

- Since this will be Dr. Gardam's last Board Meeting, he expressed how grateful he is to have had the opportunity to work on the Island for Health PEI and the acknowledged the dedication of his colleagues.
- He feels that while we have made great efforts to change and gain independence, there are areas that need to be free of interference from bodies outside the health system.
- He hopes that the public has appreciated his honesty over his term, he fervently hopes that we can continue to improve and reform the health care system on PEI
- Human resources continue to be our biggest challenge, our system is becoming more expensive and health care is in critical times both in PEI and across Canada

The Chair thanked Dr. Gardam for his report and for his service, working through the very difficult times of Covid-19 and Hurricane Fiona.

**MOTION: It was moved by Dr. William Montelpare and seconded by Ms. Helen Flynn to approve the CEO Report to Islanders.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **6.2 Board Chair Report**

The Chair delivered her report, the highlights were

- She asked the stakeholders attending to spread the word that we are looking for new members for our Board, we would welcome more diversity within the Board and geographically we need more members from the West or East of the Island. Anyone wanting to apply to our Board or other citizen involvement programs can contact Engage PEI at [Engage PEI | Government of Prince Edward Island](#).
- She welcomed all the stakeholders and media to the public portion of our meeting. We have representatives from Western Hospital Foundation, O'Leary Community Health Foundation and the Nurses PEI Union.

**MOTION: It was moved by the Chair to accept her report, seconded by Ms. Colleen Parker**

***MOTION CARRIED***

## **7.0 RESOLUTIONS/ MOTIONS**

### **Resolutions and Motions from the in-camera session:**

#1 It was moved by Ms. Colleen Parker and seconded by Ms. Jennifer Evans to approve the October 27, 2023 agenda and the meeting moves in-camera in accordance with the Health Services Act 7.1 (3).

#2 It was moved by Dr. William Montelpare and seconded by Dr. Richard Wedge that the minutes of June 28, 2023 & July 12, 2023 be approved as amended.

#3 It was moved by Mr. Peter MacDonald and seconded by Mr. Peter MacDonald to accept the OE 2.9 Contracts & Grants as presented.

#4 It was moved by Mr. Peter MacDonald and seconded by Ms. Helen Flynn to accept the OE 2.4 Financial Conditions & Budget (Q2) as presented.

#5 It was moved by Mr. Peter MacDonald and seconded by Dr. William Montelpare to accept the Litigation Report as presented.

#6 Mr. Peter MacDonald moved to approve the ARP Committee Report, seconded by Ms. Colleen Parker.

#7 It was moved by Ms. Jennifer Evans and seconded by Dr. Richard Wedge to approve the HR Report.

#8 Ms. Helen Flynn moved to approve OE 2.1 Quality & Safety (Quarter 1), in compliance provision 4.1 and non-compliant in 4.2, seconded by Dr. William Montelpare.

#9 It was moved by Ms. Helen Flynn and seconded by Dr. Richard Wedge to approve Quality & Safety Report as submitted.

#10 It was moved by Ms. Colleen Parker and seconded by Dr. William Montelpare to approve the CEO Risk Report as presented.

#11 It was moved by Dr. Richard Wedge to move out of in-camera into the Public portion of the Meeting, in accordance with the Health Services Act 7.1, at 1 pm, seconded by Ms. Colleen Parker.

#12 It was moved by Dr. William Montelpare to accept the Public Agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Helen Flynn.

#13 It was moved by Dr. William Montelpare to accept the June 28, 2023 minutes as presented, seconded by Ms. Colleen Parker.

#14 It was moved by Dr. William Montelpare and seconded by Ms. Helen Flynn to approve the CEO Report to Islanders.

#15 It was moved by the Chair to accept her report, seconded by Ms. Colleen Parker

**All Motions were carried**

## **8.0 MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVES**

No Ministerial directives received.

## **9.0 QUESTION PERIOD**

### **9.1 Local Stakeholder Questions**

The Board held an open question period for all guests to participate in.

#### **9.1.1 Western Hospital Foundation**

Mr. Dave Pizio and colleagues joined the meeting from the Western Hospital Foundation, Mr. Pizio had several operational questions which Dr. Gardam addressed. Regarding staffing, Mr. Pizio asked whether there was anything that Islanders could do to help. Dr. Gardam asked that all Islanders welcome newcomers to the Island. We are making extraordinary efforts to recruit to the Island, and we need to make everyone comfortable working here. This is a crisis, but everyone can help recruit and retain. The Foundations can showcase their community to attract new healthcare workers. Mr.

Page 4 of 6

Pizio feels that he would like to see more information from Health PEI. Dr. Gardam agreed that there needs to be an honest conversation between the provinces and public across Canada regarding the health care crisis. He does try to communicate often; he has tried to be as transparent as possible. He feels that healthcare is extraordinarily political in Canada, the challenges continue with increased population, immigration and infrastructure and technology.

The Chair thanked the Western Hospital Board Foundation for their attendance.

## **9.1.2 Eva Rogerson, O'Leary Community Health**

The meeting was joined by Ms. Eva Rogerson and colleagues from O'Leary Community Health. Ms. Rogerson had several operational questions and Dr. Gardam answered each in turn.

There were several concerns highlighted regarding testing on elderly patients, family physicians covering the emergency rooms and this leading to longer wait times for their practice patients to see them, and the revival of the Community Health Engagement Committees (CHEC). Ms. Rogerson presented Dr. Gardam with a specific history of interactions with a local physician that she has concerns about. He indicated that he will look into the matter but feels that this should be addressed to the PEI College of Physicians and Surgeons where they have a formal complaint procedure.

Ms. Helen Flynn remarked that it is great to have people volunteering their time to serve their community. The Chair encouraged more communication with our Board and thanked the O'Leary Community Health Foundation for their attendance.

## **9.1.3 Nurses PEI Union**

Ms. Barbara Brookins asked several questions to the chair and Dr. Gardam. Travel nurses were discussed. She indicated that she had spoken at length with the previous Board Chair, Derek Key, three years ago and she feels nothing has improved. She asked the Chair what the Board's role is with respect to HPEI. The Chair referred to PEI legislation mandating the Board's oversight of the system, not operational, 'eyes in, fingers out.' The Chair spoke about the Board's responsibilities in relation to ensuring accountability, risk management, budgeting, policies and directives. The Board primarily exists to ask questions of the organization and oversee the accountability framework. Ms. Brookins asked who has the authority to make decisions, she is particularly referring to travel nurses. Ms. Brookins is concerned about the travel nurses being paid much more than regular staff working along side and not taking on the same level of responsibilities. Dr. Gardam agreed that this is a short-term fix, Health PEI is using travel nurses to respond to the need to allow our staff to take time off, to temporarily address staff shortages. Mr. Peter MacDonald referred to the concerning issue of full-time nurses versus part-time as PEI has more part-time nurses than the national

# Health PEI

average. He asked Ms. Brookins what the union was doing to encourage full time work and asked what the Board could do to help. Ms. Brookins feels that her members are reluctant to work full-time as they feel that they would not be allowed to take leave or further education. Ms. Brookins encouraged Health PEI to recruit from the Island, she believes there are potential staff here on the Island that are not engaged in healthcare. She questioned if there was a need for an Advisory Board.

The Guardian reporter (Stu Neatby) asked for an update on:

- CEO Recruitment, the position will be posted in November 2023
- Rural Health Assessment, the KCMH/ Western assessment has been done, now we are looking at all our emergency services across the Island. This is a statistical assessment, rather than fostering recommendations
- Physician Assistant postings were delayed due to classification
- Associate Physician is a new classification and needs to be approved by the College

The Chair thanked the guests for their time and their questions.

## 10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Chair thanked the Board for their time, Dr. William Montelpare moved to adjourn at 2:45 pm. Next Board Meeting will be held at the Atlantic Technology Centre on December 6, 2023.

<i>Date Approved:</i>	<i>Chair Signature:</i>
	<i>Deane F. Horiffin</i>

