Central Health Board of Trustees Board Chair Report

I'm pleased to share highlights from our March 26th open meeting in Botwood with you.

I was proud to announce that Central Health, along with its Western Health partner, was named one of six recipients of the Canadian College of Health Leaders National Awards program for the "Optimizing Care of Frail Elderly Residents in Long Term Care" project, with the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health. Awards will be presented at the Honouring Health Leadership event on June 9th in Toronto. This is an example of what Central Health is doing to improve quality of care and quality of life for LTC residents—all in support of healthy aging.

Vice President, People and Transformation, Vanessa Mercer-Oldford, gave an update on physician leadership initiatives. The health authority is working with an executive search firm to recruit a Vice President, Medical Services and Chief of Staff. Recruitment is expected to take approximately six months. President and CEO, Andrée Robichaud, recognized and thanked outgoing VP Medical Services, Dr. Jeff Cole, for his support and leadership. Dr. Cole will return to his full-time anesthesia practice after March 31st. Starting April 1st, Dr. Andrew Hunt – who currently practices in Twillingate – will serve as the interim VP, Medical Services and Chief of Staff until a successful candidate is hired.

March 26th was also the first meeting of the Patient and Family Advisory Council. This volunteer group brings unique experiences and perspectives to their formal roles as Patience Experience Advisors – and to advising Central Health's senior leaders, health care providers, staff, and physicians on policies, practices, planning, and delivery of person- and family- centred care. This group helps the health authority keep individuals and their families at the centre of all planning and decision-making.

The next open Board meeting is scheduled for April 23rd in Twillingate.

Don Sturge
Chair, Central Health Board of Trustees

