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**ANNUAL REPORT –**  
**April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

As the President and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Health Partners Inc. – Catholic Health International, I hereby present CHI's operational report for the period April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

There were many issues of extreme importance during the past year, including the development of policy around the Federal Supreme Court Decision to permit Physician Assisted Death. This year, as in the previous year medically assisted death (Medical Aid in Dying – MAID) has been the focus of ethical discussions in many of our CHI facilities. The CHI office has been involved in clinical consults for individual facilities and attended education sessions where medically assisted death has been the focus. Several of our facilities have developed policies on the subject and have had education sessions with their staff on how to ensure that all patients and residents are treated with compassion, respect and dignity while ensuring that Catholic teaching is followed. In Ontario, the CHAO hosted a one day workshop titled "Practical issues associated with MAID requests in Ontario. "This workshop was attended by representatives of each of the four CHI facilities in Ontario as well as David Levangie, our VP of Operations. In New Brunswick, a letter was sent by CHI and the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick (CHANB) to each Member of the Provincial Legislative Assembly (MLA) and each Member of the Federal Parliament (MP) outlining our support for increased palliative/hospice care and our need for individual and facility conscience protection. CHANB has been working with the two regional health authorities in New Brunswick to plan an education day on palliative care for the fall of 2017. It is our firm belief that an enhanced Palliative Care program throughout our system will reduce requests for MAID. On a national level the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (CHAC) Ethicists met twice this year, sponsored by the CHAC Governing Council, to provide input to the Council on the experience of ethicists across the country. Medically assisted death (MAiD) will continue to

be the focus of much discussion and effort within our facilities in the coming year and we approach this important issue with compassion and care for all. Additionally there have been meetings with Bishops on both the National and Provincial levels to ensure that we are all working in harmony.

The Board of Directors met regularly throughout the year as required by the by-laws to address requests, issues and/or concerns of the various Corporations. As in previous years, accountability documents and CHI staff site visits ensure that the various Corporations operating under the CHI 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.”* Our operating name “Catholic Health International” continues to receive respect from all government agencies and the general public. Our work revolves around sound moral principles and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Catholic Health International, through its *Centre Excellence in Leadership* completed a survey of all of the facilities within our system to determine the extent to which services are provided in Religious and Spiritual Care, Mission Development, and Ethics. The results of the survey are now being distributed to the various Pillars with the Centre for action and recommendation for support. There are five Pillars within the *Centre*: Catholic Healthcare Leadership; Values Integration Assessment; Ethics; Religious and Spiritual Care; and Mission Development. The Pillars are geographically and linguistically represented.

The Values Integration Assessment Programs has had a very successful year. The five year program completed its first year with site visits throughout our entire system. Site visits, as part of the five year plan have been confirmed for the coming year. There has been excellent and very positive feedback from those facilities surveyed during the year. They now look forward to the next visit. It is our plan that facilities will be surveyed every three to five years.

Our relationship with the Regional Health Authorities in New Brunswick is very positive. Through regular meetings with principals, we were able to address issues of major concern. Throughout the year, a regular schedule of meetings were arranged with the CEO and Senior Leadership of Vitalite Network, the francophone Authority and a Vice-President of Horizon Health Network, the Anglophone Authority, has been working very closely with CHI. Both Networks met with CHI seeking assistance in establishing policies around the MAID program. A Vice-President also attends our workshops and conferences. In addition, CHI’s appointees to the both Health Authorities have been attending workshops and conferences. These appointments are critical to the smooth operation of our work within the Regional Health Authorities. We are extremely pleased with the outcomes.

During the year, new appointments were made to fill Catholic Seats on the two Health Authorities in New Brunswick. Martina Shannon of Saint John was appointed to the Horizon Health Network and Claire Savoie of Bathurst was appointed to the Vitalite Health Network. Both appointments were made by the Minister of Health for the Province of New Brunswick on the recommendation of CHI...

**We are in the initial stages of establishing a meeting with the CEOs of the LIHNs in Ontario. This is being done through the Ontario Alliance of Sponsors (OAS).**

**In Ontario, pressure from the Local Integration Health Networks (LIHNs) together with financial pressure from the Provincial Government, makes it very difficult to avoid looking at some form of further integration of our facilities. We are studying this very cautiously. Two areas of particular concern are the Kingston and St. Catharine's areas of Ontario. In Kingston, during the past year we have completed an integration with a major acute care facility within the city to enhance the continuum of care. This was done without losing the Catholic identity of our hospital and the integrity of its founding mission.**

**In St Catharine's we are presently in negotiation with another Catholic Hospital in a nearby city to ensure that the residents of that area continue to receive health care through a Catholic facility and avoid the pressure of the local LIHN ordering a merger with a secular facility. Hopefully these discussions will be successful.**

**The five year Strategic Plan of Catholic Health International continues to be implemented under the three strategic directions: Proclaim, Serve and Witness. This year we are focusing on a number of areas, in particular, the restructuring of the Board of Directors; succession planning for both the Board and Staff; the assessment of the needs of the vulnerable and marginalized within our entire system; and redevelopment and enhancement of the *Centre For Excellence In Leadership*.**

**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.**

**During the year, David Levangie, Vice-President of Operations, joined the Management team of Catholic Health International and brings with him experience in Mission and Ethics. Sister Rose-Marie Dufault, rnsj, Director of Programming has announced her intention to retire in May of 2018. Patricia Brennan, Director of Corporate Affairs has reduced her work week to a four day week.**

**Hazel Markwell, a leading Ethicist in Canada, has agreed to work with Catholic Health International on an as need part time basis. We welcome Hazel and her expertise.**

**During the year, work was completed on most by-laws for the various corporations which either needed review or revision including CHI itself. We are presently working with one facility to complete the work on their by-laws.**

An environmental scan is provided to the Board of Directors of CHI at each of their meetings. This scan provides the Board members with a picture of activities related to governance and operations in each of the facilities across the CHI system.

During the year, a number of requests were submitted and received approval from Catholic Health Partners and to the Holy See.

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

Catholic Health International website is kept current and updated regularly. It is being reviewed with changes to be made to make it more “user friendly”. In addition our monthly newsletter “The Torch” is now being produced on a monthly basis and has a wide distribution.

A “Volunteer Excellence Award” is available to each facility, awarded by Catholic Health International, to a volunteer within each facility who has an outstanding record of volunteerism.

Regular meetings of the Advisory Chair Council are held to provide an opportunity for the Advisory Committee Chairpersons in Catholic Hospitals of New Brunswick to discuss/express concerns and/or issues within the hospital system.

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. This *Agreement* is in place until 2022. There continues to be an excellent working relationship with Government, Department of Health, and the Department of Social Development.

Many of our facilities are currently under renovation or new construction. As a result, in some areas there have been delays due to issues that have developed causing some concern. We are actively working with the Leadership of those facilities in the hope that these issues will be resolved within the next year.

We were not successful with the provincial government in the replacement of Mount Saint Joseph Nursing Home in Miramichi. We are now looking into options for the repurposing of the building when a new nursing home opens in the area in 2019/2020. Renovations have just been completed on the present Mount building in the amount of approximately twelve (\$12M) million dollars.

**Education of Members, Boards, Senior Leadership and all involved in our various ministries continues to be a priority. We continue to place strong importance on the education of Leadership at all levels.**

**Some of the initiatives include**

**Site visits of our CHI Board, Leadership Team, and CEOs to individual facilities. The most recent taking place at St. Bernard's Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, USA in October of 2016.**

- Leadership Council meetings twice per year on a regular basis – Spring and Fall with full attendance by all CEOs and CHI Staff.**
- A Plenary session held every two years in Montreal for Board Chairs, CEOs and CHI Staff. The next session is planned for April 2017.**
- Continued provision of our Catholic Healthcare Leadership Program in both official languages to Leadership and staff in all facilities. Twenty students in the English program will be graduating in May of 2017. We are currently taking applications for future programs beginning in the fall of 2017. We have over 150 graduates at the present time...**
- The Alumni of graduates met in New Brunswick in the fall of 2016 prior to the Annual meeting of the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick. Graduates from Ontario and the United States will meet in Toronto in the fall of 2017 prior to the Annual conference of the Catholic Health Association of Ontario.**
- The Board Orientation Guide is being used throughout the system.**
- Missioning ceremonies have been held in many facilities over the past year and will continue each year.**
- The "Working Together" booklet continues to be used as an adjacent tool to the Board Orientation Guide.**
- A computerized self-evaluation tool for Boards developed by CHI is being widely used.**
- All evaluations of CEOs have been or continues to be completed on an annual basis.**
- CHI provides a Scholarship Program for a person working within the system who wishes to further their education at the Masters level and above. There is one scholarship and once awarded is available only after the completion of the present successful candidates educational program.**
- CHI together with the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick offers four (4) scholarships valued at \$1,000.00 each renewable for three years, to a catholic student studying in the health care field. Presently we are presenting \$8,000.00 annually in scholarships.**

**Over the past year, legacy walls have been completed in St. Joseph's Hospital in Saint John, New Brunswick and in Stella Maris de Kent Hospital in Ste Anne de Kent, New Brunswick. We have received requests for additional "walls" to be constructed in other facilities. Catholic Health International plans to install a legacy wall in each facility comprising of a mural of the history of the founding of the hospital celebrating the work of the founding Sisters.**

Over the past few years CHI in cooperation with the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick has been working on a sculpture project for the province of recognizing the work of Religious in the fields of Health, Social Services and Education. Substantial movement was made the past few months on this project, aiming for a completing sometime in 2018/19.

Catholic Health International continues to operate in a sound financial 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 financial markets around the world have produced the results we were expecting; however, the investment committee of CHPF together with our portfolio managers are being very cautious to ensure a realistic return on our investments. The committee constantly monitors the markets through our consulting firm, PBI of Montreal. As the returns improve, Catholic Health International will take the opportunity to provide additional funds for 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 CHI with a student grant for the summer months. We are able to hire a student from May to September. These 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.

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

Catholic Health International continues to be a partner in the Ontario Alliance of Sponsors. Meetings are held on a monthly basis to deal with issues involving Catholic Health care in Ontario and issues arising across the country which could impact the delivery of Catholic healthcare in Ontario.

Catholic Health International is also a member of 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. David Schneider of Antigo Wisconsin was appointed by the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph to represent them at the Board level. He replaced Sister Sarah Maillet, rhsj, who resigned during the past year.

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. We are Church!**

**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**