



## Ross Memorial Hospital's Request to the City of Kawartha Lakes Presented on June 29, 2021

### Background

Thank you for Council's vote on June 29, 2021 to consider our request for capital funding during the 2022 Budget deliberations. We are pleased to present this request in writing and would be happy to work with staff to answer questions and provide additional information.

We are grateful for the City of Kawartha Lakes' past capital funding of Ross Memorial Hospital. The City's most recent capital contribution to the Hospital was for \$7 million in 2002 to support the Hospital's expansion, which doubled the size of the hospital by increasing the bed capacity, expanding the emergency department, and adding a new palliative and rehabilitation wing, as well as a new inpatient mental health unit. This contribution from the City represented approximately 40% of the local share for the expansion. In recognition, the City of Kawartha Lakes continues to be honoured at the Founder level on our Tradition of Giving donor wall within the hospital.

Today, the City and Ross Memorial Hospital collaborate through the HKPR District Health Unit and the Kawartha Lakes Ontario Health Team to work together on various municipal programs: Kawartha Lakes Health Care Initiative physician recruitment program, paramedic follow up with seniors released from the hospital, COVID-19 mass vaccination clinics, and other areas. These are important ways that we work together to ensure the City is a place of opportunity that takes care of its citizens.

### Request

We respectfully request the City of Kawartha Lakes consider our request for \$7.5 million in capital support toward three urgent priorities, which total \$15 million: A Clinical Information System (Epic) (\$10 million), a new dual energy CT Scanner and advanced MRI (\$4 million), and Enhanced Equipment (\$1 million). To date, we have raised more than \$5 million toward these urgent projects.

While the magnitude of these needs is a challenge, the timing provides our community with a unique opportunity: to invest in the implementation of **connected medical technology** that will transform the way care is delivered at The Ross and throughout our region.

As the health needs of our community converge with new advances in technology, now is our moment to strengthen our healthcare future.

Seismic changes have been underway, as communities like ours grapple with demographic shifts, an aging population, patients' increasing complexity, and rapid growth at precisely the same time virtually all sectors of society are making the shift to the modern digital era. This proposed investment will enable us to *elevate* the



care we provide to residents with a digital system that connects patients' health information with medical tools throughout the hospital.

The **Epic clinical information system** is a partnership with six other hospitals in the region that will give patients and their caregivers real-time access to the patient's health information throughout their transitions between organizations and services.

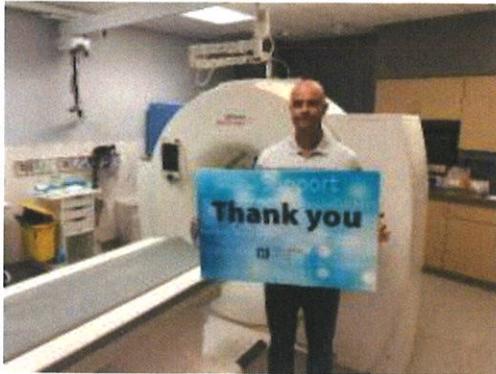
The Epic system is specifically designed to start inside the hospital, and then to extend outwards to include community caregivers, pharmacies, physicians' offices, specialist resources and sister hospitals across the region. It will also link directly to patients in their homes.

With your support, we can transform care for CKL residents with:

- One digital record for each patient across seven hospital organizations in the central east region
- Patient access to a user-friendly and secure portal called **MyChart** to view their health information and upcoming appointments
- Implementation of evidence-based best practices across the care continuum
- Timely access to information to support clinical decision-making, including test, imaging and lab results, medication information and other essential health information
- Improvements in patient safety features, including barcode identity validation at the patient's bedside
- Less duplication and more efficient processes, contributing to a more sustainable health system

Patients, family and community caregivers such as long-term care homes will, in time, also be able to connect digitally. As everyone in the patient's support system, including the patient, becomes able to access charts, book appointments online, find educational resources, or link with the local pharmacy, The Ross will evolve at the heart of a community 'web of care' that is faster, safer, better connected, and in which everyone becomes a partner in care.

*"The launch of Epic is the largest clinical transformational project in Ross Memorial's history. Implementation of the Epic CIS will streamline the ability for our patients and health professionals to communicate with one another, allowing for even more precise decisions about each individual's treatment and care. Ross Memorial is excited to be part of this historic regional partnership as it will allow for patients and their entire care team to have real-time access to each patient's health information in one place throughout their transitions between organizations and services. This initiative is going to transform the way health care is delivered in our Kawartha Lakes community and the entire region."* - **Kelly Isfan, President and CEO, Ross Memorial Hospital**



Healthcare providers depend on precision imaging to safely diagnose and treat patients. Our Diagnostic Imaging department conducts 75,000 exams each year, and demand continues to grow. Our community's needs include a new **CT Scanner** and new **MRI machine**, both of which reached end-of-life after 10 years of near constant use. Access to these tools is imperative and acquisitions are underway. We have brought to the Ross a dual energy CT scanner – a new technology that uses two energy streams to provide magnificent 3D images of structures in

the human body. This scanner can isolate areas of the body as never before, digitally removing obstructions to help radiologists see obscured vascular structures, vessels, arteries, organs and extremities. Additionally, a new MRI machine will be much faster and perform more complex scans on a broader range of patients, which will help to reduce wait times and eliminate the need to refer patients to other hospitals. Both the CT Scanner and MRI will be connected to the clinical information system, uploading patient images instantly into their medical records where they can be readily accessed by the Ross Team and specialists outside of our region as needed.

To optimize the benefits of connected care provided through the new clinical information system, we have been and are continuing to invest in bedside tools that will also connect to the CIS. In recent years, we have invested in a fleet of ECGs and X-ray/Fluoroscopy technology that will link to the CIS. Our next priority acquisition is a **new fleet of IV pumps with safety software**. With compatible medical tools and technology, our hospital will record and monitor patients' vital signs, tests, lab reports, medications and images together in one place in real time. With safety alerts, the Ross Team will have back up support to ensure our most vulnerable patients are receiving the safest care.

#### **Cities play an important role in local healthcare**

The provincial government has increased hospitals' operating and infrastructure funding in recent years, and this year, there was support for COVID-19 related hospital needs. While we're grateful for this increased funding, we continue to rely on the community to support equipment costs that aren't funded through the provincial healthcare funding formula. With donors' support, the hospital is able to acquire medical equipment that could not otherwise be afforded through its annual budget. To date the Foundation has raised more than \$5 million for these urgent needs, demonstrating substantial support from residents and grateful patients. The community is behind us, but we can achieve so much more with your involvement.

Municipalities are seeing the benefits of contributing to hospital campaigns because they improve overall healthcare and quality of life for residents, and ensure patients receive care close to home. Communities with advanced hospital facilities attract new residents and business.

Hospitals and municipalities are working together to deliver critical projects that meet the needs of their communities:

- Around 68% of hospital campaigns in Ontario include municipal support.
- Municipalities have funded between 10% to more than 50% of project costs.
- Projects in smaller communities have a larger proportion of municipal support relative to total goal.
- Regions experiencing higher growth are most likely to commit significant funds for hospitals through tax levies or other means.

As a recent example, two of our Epic partner hospitals, Northumberland Hills Hospital and Campbellford Memorial Hospital, have jointly approached Northumberland County for support over the next 10 years.

### **Conclusion**

The pandemic has highlighted the importance of a strong community hospital. People want to know that the best possible care will be available when they need it. It is our goal to provide Exceptional Care Together. With your support and the generosity of local donors, we elevate care for the entire community.

We look forward to continuing the conversation about how the City can play a pivotal role in securing this future for Ross Memorial Hospital. We are happy to answer any questions as they arise and provide additional information.