



# KIRKLAND AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL ENGLEHART AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL



*Working Together to Meet YOUR Health Care Needs*

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## Important Announcement

Over the past several years the Englehart and District Hospital (EDH) / Kirkland and District Hospital (KDH) have worked diligently and methodically together on a path of integrating various management and operational processes to improve standardization, efficiency and help address budgetary pressures. This path has jointly evolved over the years to the point where both organizations have now reached an important milestone – we wish to announce that the Board of Directors of each Hospital have unanimously voted to pursue the formal amalgamation of the separate organizations into a single entity providing seamless health services across the Kirkland Lake, Englehart and surrounding areas. This will be a journey that will take approximately a year to formalize, and it involves several key steps that include: i) application for approval to the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN); ii) community and stakeholder discussion/feedback sessions; iii) application to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) for approval; and iv) legal applications to create a single corporate health service provider entity.

Englehart and District Hospital / Kirkland and District Hospital have worked together with the aim of maintaining and enhancing services so we continue to provide the best possible care in our communities and close to home. In the past two years the organizations came together to advance integration efforts by; i) identifying an umbrella entity – “Blanche River Health” to identify the combined scope of a newly amalgamated organization; ii) creating a single shared management team; iii) creating a joint Board of Directors structure with common by-laws; and iv) aligning back office services and contracts. Integration efforts to date have help secure significant capital investment in both Hospitals (in excess of \$4 million over the past 2 years); produced significant improvements in operating budgets and cash positions; and supported the development of combined quality, strategic planning and resource management objectives, policies and processes.

The Board of Directors for each Hospital have committed to the maintenance of core services in the communities that are served by each site with a view of further enhancing and developing quality patient services and access to care within each community and district wide. We do not at this time foresee any closures or layoffs directly related to the proposed amalgamation. In the near future we expect to see significant investment in diagnostic

imaging services with new digital x-ray equipment at both sites, and a proposed new CAT Scan and Intensive Care Unit at KDH. We also expect to see improved coordination and sharing of human resources at both sites that will further enhance standards and quality of clinical and support services provided to patients.

We believe this exciting next step in our journey as a key community health care provider is a natural progression towards enhancing and streamlining services and patient care. A plan outlining the path to amalgamation is currently in development that will outline each step forward, including community / staff information and engagement sessions, and open discussions with our community health service partners, primary care providers and other stakeholders. As we aim to provide timely and transparent information to our communities and all other stakeholders, further communications will soon be provided to update on various steps and engagement sessions, as well as outline our progress towards amalgamation. We recognize this proposed change will raise discussions about health care services and would encourage participation in the various engagement sessions as they take place (scheduling to be determined).

We want to thank you in advance for your support and patience as we take this journey together to create a better health care services future for our patients and communities.

Sincerely,

Gary Sims  
President and Chief Executive Office