



## Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre's Position on the North West Local Health Integration Network's Notice of Non-Compliance

On Thursday April 24, 2008 the North West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) issued a **Notice of Non-Compliance** to the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre for failing to enter into a hospital service accountability agreement with it.

A hospital service accountability agreement requires that a hospital operate in a balance budget position. Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is not in a balanced budget position because this year the Ministry of Health and Long-Term terminated funding previously provided for the hospitalist program operated by the hospital.

The hospitalist program is a vital program which provides physician services to inpatients in the hospital who either do not have a family physician or who have a family physician but that physician does not follow their patient's care while in hospital.

This program is vital to the proper management and coordination of medical services provided to patients while in our care. It is also vital to the management of in-patient beds which are already over-taxed due to chronic overcrowding within our hospital.

In March 2006, a written commitment was made to the Board of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care that a "reasonable solution" would be found to address the on-going funding of the hospitalist service. In March 2007 funding for this service was again provided by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care along with a commitment to resolve this issue. To date no "reasonable solution" has been found. Rather the funding has been terminated putting us in a deficit position for the coming year.

Due to the current funding position taken by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care regarding the hospitalist program, the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is not in a position to meet its obligations contained in the proposed hospital service accountability agreement and therefore cannot sign an agreement with the North West Local Health Integration Network.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Saddington", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ron Saddington  
President & CEO

980 Oliver Road  
Thunder Bay, Ontario  
Canada P7B 6V4

Telephone  
(807) 684-6000

Website  
[www.tbrhsc.net](http://www.tbrhsc.net)