

## Opening Remarks

**Maria Britto**

**Chair, Central West LHIN Board of Directors**

**Governance and Leadership Forum – February 2016**

**Patients First: A proposal to strengthen patient-centred health care in Ontario ... be part of the conversation**

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Hello everyone.

My name is Maria Britto and, as Chair of the Central West LHIN Board of Directors, it's my pleasure to welcome all of you to this important Governance and Leadership Forum this evening.

Once again it is absolutely wonderful to see such a strong turnout. We have close to 180 individuals registered for this evening representing more than 45 organizations – both those we fund as well as those we don't fund. It demonstrates a level of engagement that reflects our collective responsibility to meet the health care needs of local residents.

This Forum continues to remain popular with local health service providers. Nevertheless, I've made a note to ensure we invite Dr. Bell more often. You draw quite a crowd Dr. Bell, and we are very pleased that you are able to join us this evening. Thank you for being here.

Joining Dr. Bell is Tim Hadwen, the Ministry's new Assistant Deputy Minister, Health System Accountability & Performance Division. No stanger to government Tim has held a number of senior roles within the public service. Tim, we are pleased to have you join the Health and Long-Term Care team... welcome.

Many of my colleagues from the Central West LHIN Board are also here this evening... perhaps you could stand for a just a moment so we cans see where you are.

Last December the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care released the discussion document entitled Patients First: A proposal to strengthen patient-centred health care in Ontario. With this paper, the Ministry is seeking broad stakeholder advice regarding the next phase of its plan to put patients first.

Ontario's LHINs have been asked to assist with the engagement process. Answering the call, the Central West LHIN has already hosted stakeholder consultation sessions with the Central West Primary Care Network and our local Francophone community. We are also holding a series of public engagement sessions across each of the Central West LHIN's 5 sub-LHIN geographies. A stakeholder session is planned for members of the local Aboriginal community and, we will hold a meeting with the LHIN's newly created Citizen Panel.

I can tell you, the discussions have been passionate and we have been hearing very interesting comments. Once all of the engagement sessions are completed we will consolidate feedback and submit this to the Ministry by February 29<sup>th</sup>. I would also encourage you to provide your individual and/or organizational response. A template is available on the Central West LHIN Web Site and on the Ministry's web site.

Tonight, as Governors and leaders from across the health care sector, it's your turn... your chance to be part of an important conversation. And so, we have a very busy night ahead.

First, we will take a few moments and open up the floor to highlight any breaking news or success stories you want to share with the group.

Then, Scott McLeod, CEO of the Central West LHIN, will discuss the purpose of our time together this evening... why are we doing this... what are we expecting from you... and, what we will be doing with the information that comes out of these consultation sessions.

Following Scott, Dr. Bell will set the context, providing an overview of the discussion document.

With the context set, Terri Lohnes will put us to work... leading us through the discussion portion of our evening.

I hope you have come prepared to discuss. I look forward to hearing your elevator pitches at the end of the night.

I now invite Scott McLeod, CEO of the Central West LHIN to take us through the purpose of this evening's Forum.

Scott...