



Proud to Be Part of a Bigger System of Care



There is a lot in the news about how busy hospitals are. Bed shortages, long wait times in Emergency Departments (EDs) and people staying in hospitals while waiting for other services are all indicators that health care is stretched.

Patients served by Almonte General Hospital (AGH) and Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH) have the luxury of Emergency care close to home and higher-level services nearby. Someone with heart issues can go to the Heart Institute. A person with a broken hip might be cared for at Queensway Carleton or M^ontfort. Our citizens have confidence that if they are seriously ill, they will be taken care of.

AGH and CPDMH generally have shorter wait times in their EDs than our neighbours in Ottawa. This is not such a well-kept secret. People from Kanata, Stittsville, Ottawa and beyond sometimes come to our EDs. The extra volume can make the wait time longer.

From time to time, someone in the community will suggest to me that perhaps we should find a way for local people to be seen first, or even discourage “outsiders” from using “our” hospitals. My answer to both of those ideas is a resounding “no”.

It is vitally important that the most seriously ill or injured patients are treated first – regardless of where they

come from. This is a fundamental element of patient safety and one from which we will not waver.

AGH and CPDMH work within a system of hospitals that rely on each other to take care of the patients they can so that our partner hospitals can do the same. This is why we are committed to repatriating, or bringing home, patients who have gone to an urban hospital for treatment and no longer require advanced care for their recovery.

By helping to keep inpatient beds in Ottawa available for the sickest people, we are helping to ensure that there will be a bed for a member of our communities when they need it.

The same goes for Emergency Departments. If we want there to be space and resources in the City EDs for residents of Beckwith, Carleton Place or Mississippi Mills to be cared for when they need it, we must do our part by welcoming people whose needs can be met in our hospitals.

I am pleased that we look after people from other communities because I know that by doing so we are helping to ensure that the residents served by AGH and CPDMH have access to the very best care.

Mary Wilson Trider is the President & CEO of Almonte General Hospital and Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital