

Board Committee Report

Submitted To: PSFDH Board of Directors

Submitted by: Dr. Morell

Re: Chief of Staff Report to the Board of Directors

Date: March 24, 2026

This month has shown encouraging signs of stabilization across clinical operations, with fewer days of surge and a reduction in patient bed shortages, suggesting that we have likely moved beyond the peak of the influenza season.

While patient acuity remains moderate to high, overall flow pressures have eased compared to previous months. Despite this improvement, ongoing staffing challenges—particularly in nursing—continue to affect service delivery across multiple areas, requiring continued operational adjustments. In addition, the Operating Room remains constrained due to a shortage of anesthesia coverage, impacting surgical throughput and scheduling. Active recruitment efforts are underway, and Dr. Nadeau continues to lead focused initiatives to attract additional anesthesiologists.

A significant development this month is our organization being invited to join an established regional 24/7 clinical support service through the Ottawa Hospital, which is already in place across other hospitals within the Champlain area. This service will provide round-the-clock access to tertiary care physicians and nurses through telephone and, preferably, virtual consultation. The goal is to support our clinical teams in managing complex or deteriorating patients in real time, enabling more patients to be safely cared for within our centre and reducing avoidable transfers to tertiary facilities. This initiative represents an important step in strengthening our integration within the broader healthcare system while enhancing patient care closer to home.

Overall, while system pressures are easing, staffing shortages remain the most significant operational risk. The addition of the 24/7 tertiary support service is expected to provide meaningful clinical support and improve our capacity to manage higher-acuity patients locally.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Dr. Tom Morell
Chief of Staff PSFDH