

OHA President and CEO to Retire in December 2007

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On June 13, 2007, Ruthe-Anne Conyngham, Chair of the Ontario Hospital Association's (OHA) Board of Directors, announced that OHA President and CEO Hilary Short will retire in December 2007.

"When Hilary became President and CEO five years ago, the OHA was facing a number of serious challenges as an organization, and Ontario's hospital and health care systems were on the cusp of the most significant period of transition in a generation," said Conyngham. "Under Hilary's leadership, the OHA today has the people, the plan and the resources it needs to remain one of North America's premier advocacy associations, and Ontario's hospital system is well-positioned to meet the challenges of the future." Hilary Short joined the OHA in 1973 as a junior member of its communications staff, and went on to serve as Vice President, Policy and Public Affairs and Chief Operating Officer, before being appointed Acting President and CEO in 2002. Short was confirmed as the OHA's President and CEO in 2003.

"It has been my privilege to serve Ontario's hospitals – places where miracles happen – through the OHA," said Short. "My years with the OHA have been challenging and deeply fulfilling from both a professional and personal perspective, and I would like to thank the OHA's Board of Directors, Members and staff for their friendship and support."

Since becoming President and CEO, Short has led:

- The development of "Inspiring the Future," the OHA's new strategic directions
- The re-orientation of the OHA's internal human resources strategies and programs to make the OHA an employer of choice
- The renewal and transformation of The Change Foundation (TCF), the OHA-affiliated health research foundation
- The creation of the OHAfrica project, which provides anti-retroviral drug treatments in the African Kingdom of Lesotho, a nation with the third-highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the world
- The publication of "Inspiring Ideas and Innovation," a forward-looking set of ideas designed to contribute to and influence the ongoing health policy debate in Ontario

In addition to her responsibilities at the OHA, Short serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of COTA Health, a provider of community-based home care and mental health services, and is a member of the Board of the Hospice Association of Ontario. Short is also actively involved with the Canadian Healthcare Association and is a Certified Health Executive with the Canadian College of Health Service Executives.

Short will remain with the OHA until December in order to advocate strongly on behalf of hospitals and patients through the 2007 Ontario General Election and to help advance key patient safety, quality and governance initiatives. The OHA's Board of Directors will undertake an executive search for a new President and CEO. More information about that process will be made available in the weeks ahead.