



CEO Report to the Board

June 27, 2024



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Reaching Out to Our Community

Celebrating Pride Month

In recognition of Pride Month 2024 and our LGBTQ2S+ communities, St. Joseph's once again raised the Progress Pride flag for the month of June – Pride Month across Canada – and will do so again during the Pride London Festival from July 12 – 21.

Pride Month and the Pride London Festival spotlights LGBTQ2S+ voices and communities, acknowledges achievements, activism and tremendous resilience, brings attention to the issues still faced by many in our community and around the world, and is a call for greater unity, visibility, inclusion and equality. Raising the Progress Pride flag is one visible way St. Joseph's can promote and encourage equal rights, diversity and a more inclusive society. As an anchor organization committed to the health and well-being of our community, it is imperative we ensure those facing significant barriers to participation in different facets of society feel safe and welcome within our walls and beyond.

Once again this year, all staff and physicians are invited to take part in the London Pride Parade on Sunday, July 21, 2024 and come together behind the St. Joseph's banner. Pride is also an opportunity for our organization to learn from the experiences of our LGBTQ2S+ communities, share knowledge and enhance understanding. During the months of June and July 2024, educators from [Rainbow Health Ontario](#) will lead lunch and learn sessions for all staff and physicians on the intersections of diverse gender identities and health care.

Volunteer appointment assistant program expands

Volunteer Services has expanded its Appointment Assistant Program, making this new service available at Mount Hope Centre for Long Term Care.

As previously reported, the volunteer appointment assistant role, which launched at St. Joseph's Hospital in fall 2023, was developed to provide enhanced support for patients coming for outpatient appointments. Patients or caregivers can arrange for an appointment assistant volunteer up to 10 days in advance of the appointment by completing a request form available from clinical reception staff. The appointment assistant volunteer meets the patient at the entrance, escorts the patient to their appointment, assists with registration if needed, waits for the patient in the clinic waiting area, escorts the patient back to the entrance once the appointment is completed, and sits with the patient while waiting for their ride home.

At Mount Hope, appointment assistant volunteers will assist residents with attending medical appointments at St. Joseph's Hospital, as needed, or in the absence of a family member.

Women's Wellness Group

St. Joseph's Operational Stress Injury Clinic has launched its annual Women's Wellness Group, a six-week psycho-education and guided-reflection group developed from evidence-based therapies. The curriculum examines how service experiences, environment, thinking and behavior affect women. Offered virtually to enable clients from across our catchment area of Western Ontario to attend, the program is co-led by psychologist Dr. Nicole Elliott and social worker Tanya Oakley. It explores themes of health and wellness unique to women that have shaped their identity, beliefs and coping. It has evolved from a cognitive behaviour therapy model to one that is based on peer support and education. It aims to provide women with the opportunity to: build relationships; experience safety; find validation; help others; reduce isolation; learn self-expression; build trust; and focus on self and relationships. The program complements the participants' individual therapy by reviewing skills, enhancing self-accountability and increasing

exposure to experiential learning opportunities. It is open to serving and retired members of the Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP.

2023-2024 Annual Report to the Community

Each year in St. Joseph's Annual Report to the Community, we share the achievements and successes from across our multi-site organization. The theme of this year's annual report is "These are the moments." In a new approach, St. Joseph's staff and physicians helped select 'moments' from the past year that best reflect the commitment of our teams in achieving our vision and mission. These stories are a glimpse of the exciting work happening at St. Joseph's in our programs and services and outside our walls through outreach and partnerships as we contribute to the health and wellness of our community. Be sure to read the annual report on [St. Joseph's website](#), which also features a message from our CEO and Board Chair, financial statements and a message from our treasurer.

Advancing Excellence in Care Together

St. Joseph's spotlighted in Ontario's 2024 Food Report

St. Joseph's Nourish Project was featured in Ontario's 2024 Food Report published during Local Food Week June 3-9. The Food Report recognizes and celebrates the people, businesses and organizations successfully working to strengthen Ontario's local food economy.

St. Joseph's was featured in the "Expanding access to local food in the broader public sector" section of the report and is one of two organizations spotlighted as "broader public sector successes." The organization's onsite food growing, environmental stewardship initiatives to reduce packaging, increase composting and redirect food surpluses, as well as innovative procurement strategy to source local food were highlighted in the report. Read more in Ontario's [2024 Food Report](#).

Specialized rehabilitation for survivors of gender-based violence

Women at the Centre (WATC) is a pan-Canada non-profit organization that "works to eradicate violence against women, women-identified, gender queer, 2-spirit and trans-identified people through personal, political and social advocacy." The organization received funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada to create and evaluate a comprehensive program to support survivors of gender-based violence living with brain injuries. A 20-week program was developed consisting of various services including one-on-one peer counseling, yoga, music therapy, cognitive communication groups and occupational therapy psycho-educational groups.

Through a memorandum of understanding between WATC and St. Joseph's, occupational therapist Joanne Andrews, Regional Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) System Navigator with St. Joseph's ABI Rehabilitation Program, worked with WATC, and other occupational therapists in Ontario and Quebec, in developing, supporting and supervising the delivery of the occupational therapy psycho-educational groups and resources. This included various sessions addressing the intersection of gender-based violence and ABI, and the effects of ABI and trauma on the brain including physical, sensory and cognitive changes. All content was developed in consultation with survivors to ensure the development and delivery of the program and resources were survivor-led.

Rotator Cuff: Rehabilitation to Replacement

Physiotherapists and surgeons from St. Joseph's Roth McFarlane Hand and Upper Limb Centre hosted the Rotator Cuff: Rehabilitation to Replacement Conference on May 31, 2024, at St. Joseph's Hospital, which attracted nearly 150 local professionals dedicated to advancing their expertise in shoulder rehabilitation. Attendees engaged in lectures and demonstrations presented by experts in their field from HULC, which included an opportunity to view a live reverse total

shoulder arthroplasty surgery. This conference provided an invaluable platform for knowledge exchange, exploring cutting edge techniques and discussing innovative treatment strategies aimed at enhancing patient outcomes in shoulder rehabilitation.

Capital master planning – an update

As part of phase 2 of capital master planning at St. Joseph's, an in-person physical planning visioning session was held May 13, 2024 to introduce the process of physical space planning and develop planning principles for the user groups moving forward. Approximately 140 participants attended, which included staff, physicians and leaders who have participated in capital master planning process to date. The session provided an opportunity for participants to learn about design trends and provide input into what should be considered as we work through the planning of services at each of our sites. Feedback collected spoke to the importance of providing a connected, accessible, and inclusive environment in support of the ongoing and expanding work of St Joseph's.

Leading in Research and Innovation

The benefits of labyrinths

Studies conducted through Lawson Health Research Institute show labyrinths lead to increased calm, reduced blood pressure and stress, and improved mental health and well-being. The research team's work examining the benefits of labyrinth-walking in a forensic mental health care setting has been cited globally. This spiritual tradition is available at all St. Joseph's sites:

- There are two permanent labyrinths at Southwest Centre for Forensic Mental Health Care – one indoors and one outdoors. Also at Southwest Centre, a portable labyrinth with lines painted on canvas is available for use at other locations.
- Parkwood Institute Mental Health Care Building has an indoor labyrinth in the Multifaith Room as well as an outdoor labyrinth - both suitable for people who walk or wheel.
- Mount Hope Centre for Long Term Care and St. Joseph's Hospital each have finger labyrinths available for meditation in the multifaith rooms.
- A portable labyrinth at the Parkwood Institute Main Building in the Multifaith Room provides an opportunity to walk every Friday at noon.

On World Labyrinth Days May 3-4, staff, patients and residents at St. Joseph's were invited to join thousands across the globe who "walk as one at 1 pm." The event also sparked local media to feature Lawson's research expertise in this field. Read more on [Lawson's website](#).

Exploring the future of artificial intelligence in health care

More than 400 learners, faculty and researchers from across St. Joseph's, London Health Sciences Centre and Western University gathered for London Health Research Day (LHRD) on May 7, 2024. LHRD is one of Southwestern Ontario's largest cross-disciplinary health research conferences and is presented in partnership by Lawson Health Research Institute and Western's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and Faculty of Health Sciences. With 340 poster presenters, 50 volunteer judges and 24 symposia speakers, the event, held at Western, was an opportunity for students to share innovative research on a wide variety of health topics, practice science communication, network, and learn from workshops and an insightful keynote presentation. The keynote speaker was Dr. Laura Rosella (PhD), Canada Research Chair in Population Health Analytics at the University of Toronto, who presented on "The AI Tipping Point: Future Directions for the Applications of AI for Health. Artificial intelligence (AI) was also the focus of a public lecture preceding LHRD on May 6, 2024, by Dr. Mark Daley, Chief AI Officer at Western, who addressed how AI has the potential to change the future of health research and the lives of Canadians. Read more on [Lawson's website](#).

New PET/CT meeting high expectations

St. Joseph's new PET/CT is quickly living up to high expectations in imaging prowess, the patient experience, and in setting the stage for ground-breaking clinical research. Since the machine became operational in September 2023, clinicians and researchers have confirmed that the machine is fast – decreasing the time it took for a scan from about 45 minutes on the older system to less than 14 – head to toe. Patients are exposed to less radiation and the ability to precisely detect disease and tiny abnormalities is exceptional.

For young adults undergoing repeat PET/CT exams due to their medical conditions, reducing the radiation dose is critical since these individuals already face an elevated life-time risk of developing cancer from radiation, which increases with additional exposures. For older adults, shorter scans are also critical as lying still for long periods can be a hardship due to pain from bone metastases or other conditions, and is a challenge for those who have dementia, are claustrophobic or experiencing other issues.

In research, the new PET/CT is expected to be the catalyst for novel clinical trials for patients facing breast cancer, Alzheimer's disease, prostate cancer, epilepsy and obesity. Scientific exploration in these areas is currently being planned at St. Joseph's.

The benefits of the new PET/CT were recently shared with media, disseminated globally by GE HealthCare and showcased at the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Annual Meeting in Toronto June 8-11. Read more on [St. Joseph's website](#).

Virtual Care research

On June 21, the citywide Virtual Care Program hosted a webinar to present local, current research conducted at the two organizations related to virtual care technology. The following research and findings were presented:

- An evaluation of the impact of a virtual type 2 diabetes self-management education program on self-efficacy over six months. The study found significant improvements aligned with social cognitive theory.
- An investigation, as part of the LIBERATE study, exploring whether engagement with continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) technology paired with virtual health coaching affects glucose control in type 2 diabetes patients. After three months, it was found that increased scanning of CG devices was associated with improved HbA1c.
- The effectiveness of a live-online mindfulness intervention for improving health-related quality of life of children with epilepsy. The study found a seven-point increase in quality of life scores for these children.
- An exploration of self-management interventions for care partners of individuals with neurodegenerative movement disorders and the benefits of virtual programming. The benefits of virtual programming were found to be accessibility, cost effectiveness and continuity of care.
- Applying the Sustainability Quality Improvement (SusQI) Framework to assess the value of virtual care for otolaryngology-head and neck surgery patients. The study found that virtual care can be used to complement to in-person care for these patients and adds fiscal and environmental value while ensuring equitable access to care.
- A study that captured adolescent and caregiver attitudes towards telemedicine use in a paediatric headache clinic. Both adolescents and caregivers preferred a mix of in-person and virtual appointments, as opposed to one or the other.

Taking hybrid learning to a new level

Organizational Development and Learning Services (ODLS) has launched new technology supporting remote optimized hybrid meetings (ROHM). It was recently used for a session of the Emerging Leaders Development Program, during which some participants took part virtually and some in person. The new technology allowed virtual participants to be seen while also seeing the classroom and facilitator, and to hear the facilitator and any questions from the room. They could also send chat messages or speak to the class and facilitator.

In addition, the technology allowed in-person grouping of participants and virtual break-out rooms to take place simultaneously throughout the session. ROHM ensured that virtual participants were included and could more fully engage in the learning.

This new frontier in hybrid learning and development was facilitated through support from Information Technology Services and involved an upgrade from the older Smartboard technology. ODLS is currently developing best practice guidelines for ROHM to ensure virtual participants are prioritized and made to feel included and welcome in all hybrid learning. The goal is to use ROHM-format training across the organization.

OneChart Phase II – an update

As part of the OneChart Phase II project, physicians and clinical staff within the Forensic Psychiatry Outreach Program at Southwest Centre for Forensic Mental Health Care transitioned to electronic documentation on June 18. This change will bring greater coordination and timely communication among teams, as well as improved access to patients' health records in real-time, with more comprehensive information in a single source to support patient care. The go-live went smoothly with the program team feeling well prepared and noting good onsite support and timely responses to any questions. With the inpatient and outpatient teams working closely together, this transition will allow the inpatient teams to become familiar with OneChart leading up to the go-live for inpatient care at Southwest Centre, which will take place in the coming months.

Empowering people

Corporate Huddle focuses on strategic plan

A Corporate Huddle titled "Corporate Strategic Plan and You!" took place virtually on June 12 with a focus on our collective accomplishments over the past year and new objectives for 2024-2025. Topics of discussion also included our research strategy, academic mandate and OneChart. Nearly 260 staff and physicians tuned in.

Leading up to and during the huddle, input was sought from physicians and staff as we look to refresh our mission, vision and values, asking them to share what they value most about working at St. Joseph's and which existing value or potential new value resonates most.

The Corporate Huddle is held regularly to engage staff, physicians and researchers in the work of St. Joseph's corporately, particularly the organization's Strategic Plan, key priorities and initiatives. This virtual event also allows staff and physicians to have questions answered and contribute to the direction and initiatives of St. Joseph's.

Learning together

As part of maintaining collaboration between the Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) of St. Joseph's and the MAC of London Health Sciences Centre, it was agreed that a joint session of the two MACs will take place between the two organizations. These joint meetings are intended to provide education or development to the cross-appointed Chiefs to help them in their role, with topics planned along proposed themes related to governance, medical leadership development, operational, quality/innovation/research. The first session was held in May 2024 with a focus on

governance, the obligations of the MAC to the Board of Directors and the bylaws, as well as the MAC's role in meeting the obligations under various pieces of legislation such as the Public Hospitals Act. The session was well attended by leaders from both organizations and received positive feedback.

Remembering Our London Family

On June 6, St. Joseph's remembered the devastating act of terrorism that took the lives of four members of the Afzaal family in London by lowering the Canadian flag at all sites and lighting up our buildings in green and purple in solidarity with the family and the London community. As we continue to heal, we are reminded of the need to come together as a community to address hate in all its forms, listen and learn, and deepen our connections to each other. Leading up to the third anniversary of this tragic incident, all staff and physicians were encouraged to take part in the events and activities organized by the City of London and community partners to commemorate and show solidarity with Our London Family.

National Indigenous People's Day

National Indigenous People's Day on June 21 is an important day of recognition and celebration to honour the heritage, cultures, diversity and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. St. Joseph's is deeply committed to continuing the journey toward truth and reconciliation, creating positive change, and building relationships rooted in mutual understanding and respect with Indigenous nations, children, youth, Elders and families. To mark this day, the following took place across St. Joseph's:

- Leading up to Indigenous People's Day, all staff, physicians and volunteers were invited to an Indigenous Exhibition on June 19 hosted by Biigajiiskan: Indigenous Pathways to Mental Wellness and Atlohsa Family Healing Services. The exhibition, held on the grounds of Parkwood Institute, showcased First Nations Pow Wow dancing and offered teachings around many of the contemporary Pow Wow dance styles observed by today's Pow Wow circuit. The Eagle Flight Singers, a local and well-known First Nations drum group, led the event followed by songs and sharing from an Oneida Nation of the Thames longhouse singer. There was also be an opportunity for attendees to learn dance steps and join in.
- All staff, physicians and volunteers were encouraged to take part in Indigenous celebrations in the London region and provided resources to learn about the diverse and rich histories, culture, heritage and art of Indigenous peoples across Canada.
- Staff and physicians were invited to test their knowledge of Indigenous facts and issues with a short staff quiz on the intranet.
- Mangers with Compass One, which operates our retail food outlets, are completing a 15-hour course titled "Food is Our Medicine" designed to introduce new and different ways of understanding the complex relationships between Indigenous 'foodways', reconciliation, healing and health care. Compass One leaders at St. Joseph's hope to use this knowledge to inspire new menu offerings across the organization to improve the outcomes and experiences of Indigenous patients and honour and celebrate the diversity of Indigenous traditional foods.
- On the menu in cafeterias across St. Joseph's on June 21 was a combo including a bison burger, 3 sisters' salad and a strawberry drink, as well as traditional corn soup and strawberry sugar cookies. This menu is a collaboration with Indigenous Chef Tonya French and the Compass One Culinary team.

2.0 Recognition

Highest honours

Frank Prato, Assistant Scientific Director and Imaging Program Lead at Lawson Health Research Institute and Chief Medical Physicist at St. Joseph's, has been awarded the Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists' [2024 COMP Gold Medal](#), the organization's highest award for outstanding career achievement. In receiving the award, Frank is recognized for a career spanning more than 40 years and critical advancements in nuclear medicine and diagnostic radiology, including:

- The development of bone mineral density measurement, essential for osteoporosis management
- Performing the first magnetic resonance (MR) brain imaging in Canada, setting a national standard
- Pioneering MR cardiac imaging techniques, enhancing the understanding of myocardial scarring and blood flow assessment
- Introducing the first PET/CT and PET/MR scanners in Canada, revolutionizing molecular imaging and proving the economic value of advanced imaging technologies.

Read more about Frank's exceptional achievements on [St. Joseph's website](#) and why he is so deserving of this tremendous honour.

2024 Emergency Medicine Awards

Congratulations to members of the St. Joseph's Urgent Care Centre (UCC) team who took home top honours in the citywide Emergency Medicine Awards. The annual awards recognize outstanding accomplishments and performance of Emergency Medicine team members, which includes those working in the Emergency Departments of London Health Sciences Centre and St. Joseph's UCC. Award winners from the UCC include:

- Cindy Cook: Nursing Clinical Education Award, presented to a nurse who actively promotes education and best practices within the Emergency Department or UCC. This is a citywide award.
- Emma Wright: ED & Staffing Clerk Award- UCC
- Dave Nother, Emily Nicholson, Jennifer Mairleitner and Liji Puthuchira: RN Excellence Award- UCC
- Natasha Termeer: RPN Excellence Award - UCC

Standouts in transforming health care

Congratulations to St. Joseph's Volunteer Services team and the Nourish Project team for being named among four finalists in the Southwestern Ontario Chapter of the Canadian College of Health Leaders (CCHL) Innovation Awards, recognizing exceptional achievements in health care leadership and management. Both teams presented their projects on June 17 at the CCHL event, titled "Innovate, Scale and Spread: A Healthcare Innovation Evening." Those selected to present at the event are considered top local innovators whose innovations aim to transform health care.

The Volunteer Services project showcases the volunteer impact on patients, residents and care across our organization, and the Nourish Project focuses on "providing food that nourishes patients' body, mind and spirit" and highlights the onsite garden, local procurement, and reducing disposable waste.

An expert panel of local health care CEOs provided feedback on the presentations and the audience had an opportunity to ask questions. Congratulations to the Nourish Project team, which took home the \$2,500 prize awarded to the organization with the best innovation, as voted by the audience.

Fanshawe College honours Lori Higgs

Congratulations to Lori Higgs, Vice President of Clinical Support and Chief Financial Officer at St. Joseph's, on receiving an Honorary Diploma from Fanshawe College. This prestigious honour acknowledges Lori's outstanding contributions to health care leadership and community service. Lori accepted the honorary diploma and delivered an inspiring address to the graduating class during a special ceremony on June 18 at Fanshawe.

Beyond her significant work and achievements in financial stewardship at St. Joseph's, Lori has played a pivotal role in community service. She has volunteered with Big Sisters of London, Brescia College, the London Chamber of Commerce, City of London, United Way Elgin Middlesex Campaign Cabinet and as past Chair of Fanshawe College's Board of Governors. Lori is also currently serving in a volunteer capacity on Western University's Board of Governors.

In addition, Lori has participated on a national task force with the Public Sector Accounting Board and several provincial committees with the Ministry of Health and the Ontario Hospital Association, all of which have provided her with the opportunity to influence and shape the future direction of accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and hospital funding and policy decisions.

St. Joseph's is fortunate to have a senior leader with such tremendous skill and dedication to advancing health care, along with a heartfelt commitment to community service.

An outstanding preceptor

Each year, preceptors and clinical instructors in health care disciplines at St. Joseph's are nominated for various awards by students at Fanshawe College and Western University for providing exceptional mentorship and clinical placement experience. Congratulations to Ellen Bentulan, a registered nurse with St. Joseph's Palliative Care Unit at Parkwood Institute Main Building, who has won the Western-Fanshawe Nursing Students' Association (WFNSA) Outstanding Preceptor Recognition Award for 2024. Ellen was among several nominees from St. Joseph's considered standouts by health discipline students for their guidance, teaching, support, inspiration, compassion and overall dedication in providing meaningful and engaging learning experiences.

Staff appreciation BBQs

In recognition of the significant contributions of St. Joseph's staff, physicians, students and volunteers over the past year, the Senior Leadership Team is hosting the annual staff appreciation BBQ in June. On the menu are hotdogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers – all with the option of gluten free buns – salads, lemonade and chips. The complimentary lunch is being held at all sites June 18-27. Boxed meals are delivered for staff working evenings.

3.0 CEO Activity

Leadership Development Series

The most recent Leadership Development Series session was held May 29, 2024, with a key focus on the LEADS dimension "Develop Coalitions" to support the organization's mission. This included exploring the domain's four "capabilities": purposely build partnerships and networks to create results; mobilize knowledge; demonstrate commitment to customers and service; and navigate socio-political environments. The session was also an opportunity for leaders to...

- Explore our academic mandate, its recent review and make a clear connection to the essential role we play as leaders in an academic health science organization

- Reflect on ways leaders, using the spirit of inquiry, can be innovative and supportive of mutually beneficial outcomes connected to our academic and research goals
- Understand the ways we can use research and teaching to provide patient-centred care and translate existing knowledge to practice
- Understand our academic and research partnerships within current socio-political environments

CEO site visits

In June, I completed visits of inpatient units, ambulatory care areas and support services across the organization to speak to staff and physicians and get a pulse on issues and opportunities to improve care delivery and workplace culture. During these visits, I saw tremendous team work, collaboration and exceptional care being provided to those we serve. Overall, staff reported they are feeling positive and optimistic about our work environment and are finding that challenges we – and all hospitals – have been navigating with regards to health human resources are easing. These walk-about and conversations are a meaningful way for me to connect with staff and physicians face-to-face in as many areas as possible across all sites and hear their perspective on our work, care delivery, facilities, services and more.

Annual general meetings

As always, June is a busy month for annual general meetings (AGMs) across London's health care network. The following are key AGMs I attended in recent days:

- **Professional Staff Organization AGM:** I was pleased to take part in the Professional Staff Organization (PSO) AGM on June 10, along with the Senior Leadership Team and members of our Board of Directors. The joint PSO represents the interests of the Credentialed Professional Staff at St. Joseph's and London Health Sciences Centre to enable exemplary patient care, teaching and research. It is the voice of the Credentialed Professional Staff at the hospitals on important matters. I provided greetings from St. Joseph's at the meeting, which included presentations of the Leadership Development Awards, and Recognition and Reward Awards.
- **St. Joseph's AGM:** St. Joseph's AGM was held June 19 during which St. Joseph's Health Care Society, owners and operators of St. Joseph's, approved the organization's annual financial statements and received the auditors' report. As well, the society appointed the directors and officers of the St. Joseph's Health Care London Board. The Society Chair took the opportunity to acknowledge the retiring directors for their commitment and dedication, thank returning St. Joseph's directors for their continued support, and welcome the new St. Joseph's Board of Directors for 2024-2025.
- **St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation AGM:** I attended the St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation's AGM on June 26 at Sunningdale Golf & Country Club. The evening was attended by members of the foundation Board of Directors, past chairs, Nawaz Tahir, Chair of our Board of Directors who represented the St. Joseph's Health Care London Board, and foundation senior leaders. The evening celebrated another strong year of the foundation's work to support care, teaching and research across St. Joseph's, and included presentation of the draft 2023-2024 Community Impact Report. The evening also paid tribute to retiring members: Angie Francolini, Theresa Mikula and Will Heeman.

Sound garden official opening

A new sound garden created for veterans to enjoy music in nature officially opened at Parkwood Institute on June 21. I was pleased to attend the ribbon cutting of this innovative space, which was made possible thanks to a generous donation to St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation from John and Mary Smibert. The couple, long-time supporters of the Veterans Care Program, made the donation in memory of Ken Fleet, a local and well-known music teacher and Mary's brother-in-law. The Ken Fleet Sound Garden is a fully accessible and inclusive space complete with weather resistant instruments that will provide veterans with opportunities for self-expression, relaxation,

sensory exploration and social interaction – all while being out in nature. Instruments include a xylophone, percussion instruments, contra-base toned chimes, and a steel drum. Read more about the garden on [St. Joseph's website](#).

4.0 Federal/Provincial Updates

Ontario increases MRI and CT scans performed annually

As part of the *Your Health* plan, the Ontario government is [adding 100,000 more MRI and CT scans](#) at community surgical and diagnostic centres across the province each year. A call for applications is open June 3 to August 12, 2024, with new licences expected to be issued starting in fall 2024. This expansion of services is expected to help to reduce wait times for MRI and CT scans to 28 days in every region from the date the order/requisition was received to the date that people receive their scan, ensuring every person who needs imaging receives it within the medically recommended period of time.

Two additional calls for applications will be launched this summer and fall to also expand the number of community surgical and diagnostic centres that can connect people to gastrointestinal endoscopy procedures and orthopedic surgeries.

Ontario launches new health care oversight measures

To improve oversight and care consistency in the health care system, Ontario is making the following changes:

- Beginning December 1, 2024, personal support workers (PSWs) will have the option to register with the new Health and Supportive Care Providers Oversight Authority, which will ensure consistent education and training for PSWs, regardless of where they work, to support career growth and give patients confidence they are receiving high-quality care.
- On April 1, 2025, physician assistants will be regulated through the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario to improve their integration within Ontario's health care system and facilitate quality care and patient safety.

More information is available in the Ontario government [media release](#).

Private Member's bill on nursing staff ratios – an update

On May 7, 2024, NDP Health Critic France Gélinas introduced [Bill 192, the Patient-to-Nurse Ratios for Hospitals Act, 2024](#), to amend the Health Protection and Promotion Act, adding a new section that would set out the maximum patient-to-nurse ratios that would be enforced by the Ministry of Health. On June 4, MPPs debated the bill as it went through second reading, and it was voted down on June 5. As a result, the bill has been defeated and will not proceed to the next stage in the legislative process.

5.0 St. Joseph's in the News

[Western prof studies hospital data for patients experiencing homelessness](#), Western News, May 17, 2024

[Q+A: New London hospital boss vows to listen, keep eye on spending](#), London Free Press, May 22, 2024

[COLUMN: LHSC has lost its way – only a supervisor can help find it again](#), London Free Press, May 25, 2024

[Calls grow for sweeping changes at London Health Sciences Centre](#), London Free Press, May 28, 2024

[First in Canada imaging technology means less stress, less radiation for patients at St. Joseph's](#), CTV London, May 31, 2024

[Canadian researchers will test a promising new fecal microbiota treatment on patients to cure advanced melanoma](#), Lawson Health Research Institute, May 31, 2024

[Two-thirds of Canadians have experienced traumatic events in their lives, StatsCan says](#), CBC News, June 2, 2024

[London police officer honoured for mental health advocacy: 'Worth it'](#), London Free Press, May 31, 2024

[London hospital president's tenure ends after spending furor, health leave](#), London Free Press, June 11, 2024

[Public health reports first case of Lyme disease in London area this year](#), Afternoon Drive (CBC), June 11, 2024

[Deadline is midnight tonight to enter the Dream Lottery](#), 98.9 myFM News, June 13, 2024

[Improving The Volunteer Experience And Responding To Changes In Local Demographics](#), Foundation Magazine, the Business and Spirit of Philanthropy Canada, June 14, 2024

[Healing through growing](#), Health System News (Ontario Hospital Association), June 2024

[Unlocking boundless potential](#), Health System News (Ontario Hospital Association), June 2024

[London doctor: Heat wave illnesses can take days to kick in](#), London Free Press, June 21, 2024

7.0 Environmental Scan

[Ontario LTC nurses get 11.5 per cent pay increase over two years](#), CTV News, May 22, 2024

[Western researchers help build COVID-19 forecasting tool](#), Western News, May 24, 2024

[Breast screening at age 40 not routinely advised, Canadian task force says](#), CBC News, May 30, 2024

[Task force lambasted for holding firm on breast cancer screening advice](#), Canadian Press, May 30, 2024

[Federal Health Minister tables bill designed to improve patients' access to health data](#), Globe and Mail, June 6, 2024

[\\$5.7M of anonymous \\$25M donation will go toward Old South housing project](#), CBC London, June 12, 2024

[More than 400 patients moved into Ontario nursing homes they didn't choose to go to](#), Globe and Mail, June 12, 2024

[Federally funded diabetes medications, contraceptives will be available April, 2025: Health Minister](#), Globe and Mail, June 19, 2024