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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Operational Audit of Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare now available to the public**

*Final Operational Audit Report includes recommendations for change to balance MAHC operating deficit*

MUSKOKA – The Final Operational Audit Report on Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC) has been received and accepted by the MAHC board of directors and is now available to the public online at [www.mahcrecovery.ca](http://www.mahcrecovery.ca)

The Operational Audit identifies potential savings of \$5.6 million including savings identified earlier this year in MAHC's original Deficit Recovery Plan. MAHC had an operating deficit of \$2.3 million in 2008-2009 and is projecting a deficit of \$3.5 million in this fiscal year. The Operational Audit also confirmed that MAHC's two hospitals are performing at or above hospitals of similar size and complexity.

"As promised, we are releasing the Operational Audit Report in its final form. Moving forward, we will now take the report and carefully assess each of the recommendations to determine whether and how they can be implemented," Barry Monaghan, MAHC Interim President and Chief Executive Officer, said. "We will also be looking for additional opportunities to improve our performance and reduce costs."

An overview of the findings was shared with doctors, staff and residents of Muskoka and East Parry Sound in a series of meetings last month. Comments and suggestions from those meetings were provided to Hay Group Healthcare Consulting, the independent firm that conducted the audit, to take into account in preparing the final report.

The Board must now consider each of the recommendations in the audit and determine whether it should be included in the Deficit Recovery Plan to be submitted to the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network by January 29, 2010.

"Delivering safe, high quality healthcare to our residents will guide every decision we make. We will be taking all views into account as we finalize our Deficit Recovery Plan," Board Chair Mike Provan said.

This will include going back to the community early in the New Year once the draft Deficit Recovery Plan has been developed.

"While the Operational Audit proves that we have well-run hospitals, it also confirms that the status quo is not an option. We need to balance our operating budget and even generate a surplus so that we can invest in delivering high-quality healthcare," Provan said.

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