

THE PERLEY HEALTH GOVERNANCE GUIDE

OVERVIEW

Purpose of this Guide

The purpose of this Governance Guide is to provide the Directors of the Board of The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre (the Corporation) with comprehensive reference material to assist them in their diverse governance tasks.

In October of 2021, the brand Perley Health was established with the intention that the Corporation will henceforth be operated under the name Perley Health. In this Guide, The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre will generally be referred to as Perley Health, except in the rare instances where it seems more appropriate to refer to it as the Corporation.

In 2009, The Board of Directors approved and implemented a "*Board Governance Guide for Directors*". This document has served the Board well. It is updated annually with the addition of new materials, including new or revised policies, and may be updated in its entirety from time to time where a broad revision is warranted.

The scope of the material is broad enough that Board members should be able to readily find pertinent guidance for the Board's normal roles and responsibilities.

Context

Perley Health is known for its excellence in service, innovation and leadership in caring for seniors along with its special responsibility for veterans.

Building on more than a century of experience, Perley Health has evolved from primarily providing residential long-term care to also providing short-stay respite, convalescent care programs and day programs, all aimed at improving the health, safety and well-being of Seniors and Veterans throughout the community.

Governance in the 21st century goes well beyond providing traditional fiduciary oversight. Today boards are also expected to:

- Develop clear direction for the organization;
- Build and disseminate knowledge throughout the organization;
- Promote and maintain positive relationships with stakeholders;
- Identify and respond appropriately to relevant strategic risks and opportunities; and
- Monitor organizational performance, including the achievement of goals and objectives, quality improvement, financial planning and control, and the effective and efficient use of the human capital and infrastructure.

Additional Reference Materials

Additional general guidance as to best practices for not-for-profit boards is included in a separate volume entitled *Addendum to the Board Governance Guide*.

Credit

This Governance Guide has been prepared to assist the Board of Directors in providing effective governance strictly for Perley Health. The Board acknowledges that this manual has been informed by several reference documents including:

- ***“Governing for Results”*** by Mel Gill, copyright 2005;
- ***“Guide to Good Governance”*** by the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA), 2005;
- Several booklets by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) from their series ***“20 Questions Directors of Not-For-Profit Organizations Should Ask About...”***; and
- ***Accreditation Canada’s Governance Standards***.

* * * * *