



Interlake–Eastern Regional Health Authority

Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, October 23, 2025
Selkirk United Church – 202 McLean Ave., Selkirk, MB
Meeting Number 06.2025.10.23

MINUTES

Present: Michele Polinuk; Chair Debbie Fiebelkorn
Cyndi Typliski; Vice-Chair Arnthor Jonasson
Penny-Anne Wainwright Lorraine Sigurdson
Dana Erickson

Regrets: Clarissa Seymour and Jacqueline Romanow
Absent:

RHA Staff: Marion Ellis, Chief Executive Officer
Lorianne Kowalyszyn, Vice President, Corporate Service and Chief Financial Officer
Tanya Cheetham, Vice President, Acute Care, Public Health and Chief Nursing Officer
Julene Sawatzky, Vice President, Human Resources
Corrie Cole, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

1. Call to Order

M. Polinuk, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Welcome

M. Polinuk, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Treaty Land Acknowledgement

C. Typliski addressed the Treaty Land Acknowledgment.

“Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority delivers services on First Nation Treaty Territories 1, 2, 3 and 5 and on the homeland of the Red River Métis Nation. We respect that First Nations treaties were made on these territories, acknowledge past and current day harms and wrongs.

The Interlake-Eastern RHA also acknowledges its responsibility under the treaties to commit to actions. This includes actions in: addressing jurisdictional discrimination and systemic racism, growing cultural competency capacity, implementing an antiracism action plan, addressing health equity gaps, increasing the number of Indigenous employees, building Indigenous patient advocacy services, and increasing access to traditional healing.

The Interlake-Eastern RHA offers an accountability promise to report annually on its reconciliation journey actions and outcomes.”

4. Adoption of Agenda

The Board reviewed the agenda and there were no additions brought forward.

Moved by L. Sigurdson, seconded by D. Fiebelkorn

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The agenda be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 06.2025.10.4.0

5. Attendance

M. Polinuk provided roll call.

D. Erickson, Board of Director and Dr. Chris Christodoulou, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer were welcomed to the meeting. Introductions around the table were done.

C. Seymour and J. Romanow sent regrets. All other Board of Directors attended in person at the Selkirk United Church.

Moved by A. Johnson, seconded A. Jonasson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Directors excused C. Seymour and J. Romanow. All other Board of Directors are in attendance in person at the October 23, 2025 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED: 06.2025.10.5.0

6. Adoption of previous minutes

6.1 Board Minutes (September 25, 2025)

The September 25, 2025 Board of Directors minutes were reviewed.

Moved by D. Fiebelkorn, seconded by P.A. Wainwright

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes from the September 25, 2025 Board meeting be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 06.2025.10.6.1

7. Business Arising – None

8. New Business

8.1 Shared Health Overview

Dr. Chris Christodoulou provided an overview of the history and evolution of health authorities in Manitoba, highlighting key legislative changes and governance structures:

- Historical Context: Reviewed the creation of Shared Health and the integration of health authorities under a unified governance framework.
- Health System Governance and Accountability Act:

- Defines roles for five Regional Health Authorities, CancerCare Manitoba, and Shared Health (Provincial Health Authority).
- Establishes all seven Health Service Delivery Organizations (SDOs) as separate legal entities within a common accountability structure.
- Replaced the Regional Health Authorities Act and repealed:
 - o CancerCare Manitoba Act (CancerCare continued as provincial cancer authority).
 - o Hospitals Act.
 - o Addictions Foundation Act (AFM dissolved; operations transferred to Shared Health under Mental Health & Addictions portfolio; some programming moved to RHAs).
- Shared Health Overview:
 - Shared Health serves as Manitoba's Provincial Health Authority, providing provincial planning, health services, and operational support to ensure a coordinated and integrated health system.
- Quality, Performance and Strategic Planning:
 - Shared Health's strategic planning began with comprehensive clinical analyses in 2019, assembling provincial clinical teams to develop recommendations for strengthening home and community-based services to meet the needs of Manitoba's aging and growing population, while identifying specialized areas for innovation and investment. This work resulted in a province-wide Clinical and Preventive Services Plan, created through collaboration with clinicians and system leaders across all sectors. Provincial Clinical Program Teams—covering Critical Care, Emergency and Trauma, Medicine, Primary Care, Long-Term Care, Community and Palliative Care, Child and Women's Health, and Surgery and Anesthesia—are supported by program directors, consultants, project managers, finance, and data analysts.
 - The 2025–2030 Strategic Plan focuses on improving access to care (including centralized intake and virtual access), harmonizing and standardizing care, enhancing health equity, and advancing provincial quality, safety, and accreditation.
 - Shared Health leads a province-wide accreditation model, developed with government and health-care stakeholders, to ensure compliance with national standards and promote quality and safety across Manitoba.
- Provincial Collaboration and Incident Command
 - Shared Health continues to lead and participate in key provincial collaboration tables, including the Health System Leadership Council, Provincial CEO Council, Chief Financial Officers Table, Nursing Leadership Council, Medical Leadership Council, and Clinical Leadership Team. These forums support alignment on strategic priorities, operational planning, and system-wide initiatives.
 - Shared Health also oversees Emergency and Continuity Management through the Provincial Health Incident Command structure, which recently coordinated responses to MAHCP collective bargaining and strike preparations, physician workforce challenges impacting Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Centres, and two activations for Manitoba wildfire response.

Appreciation was extended to Marion Ellis, CEO, and the IERHA health care team for their exemplary leadership and collaboration during these activations and ongoing partnership in delivering care for Manitobans.

Shared Health, now in its sixth year, has experienced delays in organizational evolution and maturation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, the organization has embraced significant learning opportunities across multiple service and planning domains. There is a strong commitment to ongoing

engagement, collaboration, co-creation, and partnership with all Health Authorities, community organizations, and the Government of Manitoba—always in service of patients, families, staff, communities, and partners (RHAs).

Dr. Chris Christodoulou, closed the presentation off by sharing the [video](#) of the June 30, 2025 Health Leadership Visit to Shoal Lake and Hamiota, MB.

Opportunity for questions was provided.

M. Polinuk, Board Chair, thanked Dr. Chris Christodoulou for attending the IERHA Board and extended an invitation to return.

Dr. Chris Christodoulou thanked the Board and left the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

8.2 Accreditation Report – Sequence 1

The Accreditation Report will be deferred to the November 2025 Board Quality and Patient Safety meeting.

D. Fiebelkorn left the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

9. Chair’s Report

Michele Polinuk provided her Chair’s report:

- Attended the Provincial SDO Board Chair meeting on September 26, 2025. There was a discussion around:
 - realities of the Service Delivery Organizations (SDOs) from the 2025/26 Mid-Year Budget Letter and meeting with the Minister,
 - importance of client and patient feedback in meeting accreditation standards and ensuring accountability of SDOs, and
 - shared practices and processes for annual CEO evaluations across SDOs.
- The IERHA Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on October 6, 2025. Michele expressed appreciation to staff and Board for participating. In attendance there were 92 staff, 21 public, 3 government representatives, and 8 Board members.
- The Ethics Lunch Series has been emailed to all Board members; preregistration is required for all sessions. Michele noted that she attended the session on Harm Reduction, which explored:
 - Everyday harm reduction practices (e.g., sunscreen, seat belts, speed limits, birth control, cigarette filters).
 - Clinical harm reduction strategies (e.g., masks, gloves, eye protection, gowns, closed shoes).
 - Broader perspectives on harm reduction in health care.
 - Slide presentation available upon request.
- The Indigenous Health Advisory Gathering will be taking place on October 29, 2025. The agenda was reviewed; Michele emphasized the Board’s role as listeners. The Board members will facilitate the small group discussions, and this will be supported by Senior Leadership as the note-takers.
- All new Board members have completed two orientation sessions. There will be a “check-in” scheduled for December 1, 2025 to identify additional support needs.

- The Strategic Planning Day will be taking place on November 6, 2025. This will be a virtual session (9:30–10:30 a.m.) to launch the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan with stakeholders.

10. Chief Executive Officer Report

The October 2025 CEO Report was distributed and reviewed for information.

M. Ellis, CEO provided a high-level executive summary to the Board, covering:

- Progress on current provincial initiatives.
- Local community engagement and operational table updates.
- Capital project updates:
 - Ashern Lakeshore General Hospital expansion.
 - Eriksdale EM Crowe Memorial Hospital emergency department redevelopment.
 - Lac du Bonnet Personal Care Home project.
- Indigenous Health: IERHA 2024–2025 Truth and Reconciliation Accountability Report.
- Operational program updates aligned with the purpose, vision, values, and strategic priorities of our organization’s Strategic Plan.

Opportunity for questions was provided.

11. Committee Reports

11.1 Finance Committee of the Whole

The September 25, 2025 Finance Committee minutes were approved by the Board at the October 23, 2025 Finance Committee (of the Whole) meeting.

The Financial statements for the period ending August 31, 2025 were reviewed and accepted at the October 23, 2025 Finance Committee (of the Whole) meeting.

11.2 Audit Committee

No report. Next meeting is scheduled for the morning of December 15, 2025.

11.3 Quality and Patient Safety Committee of the Whole

No report. Next meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2025.

11.4 Education, Policy and Planning Committee

No report. Next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2025.

12. Liaison Reports

12.1 Ethics

No report.

12.2 Interlake Eastern Health Foundation

No report.

13. For Information - None

14. Next Meeting

- Thursday, November 27, 2025 @ 1:45 p.m.
Selkirk United Church – 202 McLean Ave., Selkirk, MB

15. In Camera

Leadership left the meeting, and the Board went in camera with the Chief Executive Officer.

Moved by D. Erickson, seconded by C. Typliski

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The meeting moved “in camera” at 3:45 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED: 06.2025.10.15A

Moved by P.A. Wainwright, seconded by C. Typliski

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The meeting moved “out of camera” at 3:59 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED: 06.2025.10.15B

16. Adjournment

Moved by L. Sigurdson, the meeting be adjourned at 3:59 p.m.