



# Interlake–Eastern Regional Health Authority

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 22, 2026**  
**Selkirk United Church – 202 McLean Ave., Selkirk, MB**  
**Meeting Number 08.2026.01.22**

## MINUTES

**Present:** Michele Polinuk; Chair  
Cyndi Typliski; Vice-Chair  
Dana Erickson (*virtual*)  
Clarissa Seymour (*virtual*)  
Jacqueline Romanow  
Debbie Fiebelkorn  
Arnthor Jonasson (*virtual*)  
Lorraine Sigurdson (*virtual*)  
Penny-Anne Wainwright

**Regrets:**

**Absent:**

**RHA Staff:** Marion Ellis, Chief Executive Officer  
Tanya Cheetham, Vice President, Public Health, Acute Care and Chief Nursing Officer  
Lorianne Kowaliszyn, Vice President, Corporate Service and Chief Financial Officer  
Julene Sawatzky, Vice President, Human Resources  
Kim Minnis, Executive Director, Community & Transitional Health Services  
Corrie Cole, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

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### 1. Call to Order

M. Polinuk, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

### 2. Welcome

M. Polinuk, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 3. Treaty Land Acknowledgement

D. Erickson 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 P.A. Wainwright, seconded by C. Typliski**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

**The agenda be adopted as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED: 08.2026.01.4.0**

#### **5. Attendance**

M. Polinuk provided roll call.

D. Erickson, A. Jonasson, L. Sigurdson and C. Seymour joined virtually. All other Board of Directors attended in person at the Selkirk United Church.

**Moved by D. Fiebelkorn, seconded C. Typliski**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

**All other Board of Directors are in attendance virtually and in person at the January 22, 2026 meeting.**

**MOTION CARRIED: 08.2026.01.5.0**

#### **6. Adoption of previous minutes**

##### **6.1 Board Minutes (November 27, 2025)**

The November 27, 2025 Board of Directors minutes were reviewed.

**Moved by D. Erickson, seconded by L. Sigurdson**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

**The minutes from November 27, 2025 Board meeting be adopted as presented.**

**MOTION CARRIED: 08.2026.01.6.1**

#### **7. Business Arising – None**

#### **8. New Business**

##### **8.1 Accountability Agreements Review**

M. Polinuk, Board Chair, reminded the Board of the accountability agreement requirements arising from the Deloitte audit that took place with of the Service Delivery Organizations. As part of the audit recommendations, the Board will now review the accountability agreement on a quarterly basis, beginning January 2026.

Included in the package is a copy of the accountability agreement, quarterly monitoring document that L. Kowaliszyn created to help the Board of Directors and IERHA Senior Leadership to monitor compliance with the accountability agreements.

M. Polinuk provided a high-level overview of how compliance is monitored, including alignment with provincial strategic priorities, ongoing reporting through CEO updates, dashboards, finance reports, and committee work.

In addition, M. Polinuk shared that regular accountability performance-management meetings are held with the province, as well as ongoing financial reporting processes. It was noted that meeting frequency may vary depending on provincial priorities and organizational performance.

Board members were informed that the accountability agreements, supporting documents, and related accountability letters are available in Diligent for reference.

It was confirmed that the Board's planned action for quarterly review of the accountability agreement has commenced as committed. Future reviews will continue quarterly, and as updated accountability letters are received.

Opportunity for questions was provided. No further questions were raised.

## **8.2 HIROC Partnership Meeting**

K. Podaima, Executive Director, IERHA Executive Director, Quality & Continuing Care, Inga Bjarnason, IERHA Quality and Risk Management Coordinator joined virtually at 2:00 p.m.

Shahbaz Haque, Vice President, Insurance Services, Jodi Carruthers, Senior Healthcare Risk Management Specialist, and Tania Kowalchuk, Senior Account Executive from HIROC joined virtually at 2:00 p.m. to present.

The Board received a one (1) presentation from HIROC outlining the organization's current insurance coverage, emerging national trends, and an overview of Interlake-Eastern RHA's claims experience. HIROC also reviewed available risk-management programs and resources that support safety, education, and organizational improvement.

Opportunity for questions was provided throughout the presentation.

The Board Chair thanked K. Podaima, I. Bjarnason and HIROC representatives and they left the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

D. Fiebelkorn left at 3:06 p.m.

## **9. Chair's Report**

The Board Chair welcomed everyone back following the holiday season and noted that members of the executive team had taken some much-needed time off. Appreciation was expressed to those who provided coverage during this period.

The Board Chair shared the following in her report:

- The Board Skills, Knowledge, and Training Matrix policy and evaluation were at the November Board meeting, and the minutes reflecting this approval were accepted at today's meeting. Next steps will be to distribute the Skills, Knowledge, and Training Matrix to all Board members with a requested completion date of February 20, 2026.

A profile summarization of the skills, knowledge and training matrix will be collated following the submissions, and used for education planning for the fiscal year.

- The 2026-2027 Board meeting dates have been circulated through email. They are also available as a hard copy at in-person meetings and in Diligent. A reminder was shared with the Board that members must attend at least 80% of meetings, per the RHA by-law.
- The Board was advised that Manitoba Health Cards are now available in both plastic and digital formats. The application process is the same for either version. Board members may search "[Manitoba's Digital Health Card](#)" online for a step-by-step guide. A MB Wallet app is required to access the digital version on a mobile device.

## 10. Chief Executive Officer Report

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

M. Ellis, CEO, provided an executive summary overview to the Board on progress around the current provincial initiatives; local community engagement and operational table updates; and operational program updates aligned with the purpose, vision, values and strategic priorities of our organization's strategic plan. Key highlights include:

- The new fall cohort of six (6) Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs) destined for Pine Falls started onboarding November 4, 2025. They are currently completing clinical training in Beausejour and will move to Pine Falls on January 18, 2026, to further their education and clinical integration competencies.
- Eight (8) new Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs) have begun their training on January 5, 2026, through the IEN accelerate program. This program is in partnership with Blue Drop (a company who has experience in onboarding IEN's in Atlantic Canada). This cohort is destined for Ashern and Eriksdale, where 4 IENs will go to each site.
- The Selkirk Quick Care Clinic will be relocating from its current location at 1020 Manitoba Avenue to the Interlake-Eastern Health Services Building, located at 100 Easton Drive effective January 26, 2026. The Selkirk Quick Care Clinic will be co-located with the Home Care Clinic in the former Emergency Department of the Selkirk General Hospital (commonly referred to as the "old hospital"). Selkirk Quick Care Clinic will have a temporary interruption of services during the following period: Saturday, January 24, 2026, until 12:59 p.m. on Monday, January 26, 2026. Services will resume at the new location at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, January 26, 2026.
- In partnership with Dr. Anozie, his clinic (Easton Place) is protecting ten (10) same-day booking slots daily to support patient access and flow. Suitable patients presenting to emergency are being redirected to the clinic when appropriate. Additional capacity has also been created within the Quick Care Clinic to support this work. Early indications show strong uptake, with approximately 100 patients per month being accommodated. It was noted of the improvements in efficiency and coordination across primary care teams.

K. Minnis, Executive Director, Community & Transitional Health Services presented on the Midwifery Program.

The IERHA Midwifery Program has officially launched, operating out of 100 Easton Drive, Selkirk, MB and supported by a multidisciplinary team. The program's focus is on improving equitable access to prenatal, labour/delivery, and postnatal care, with strong partnerships across Primary Care, Obstetrics, Public Health, and Indigenous communities. Highlights include;

- Operations Update: Clinic established at 100 Easton Drive (former hospital location). Current staffing includes: 2 full-time midwives; 1 full-time Midwifery Access & Coordination Lead; 1 full-time Midwifery Administration support; and 1.4 EFT midwifery vacancies. Program guidelines, team processes, and clinic pathways have been implemented.
- Program Priorities: Focus on priority populations including Indigenous clients; Single or unsupported individuals; Clients with limited communication/transportation access; and Low-income families. Emphasis on cultural safety, equitable access, and adherence to TRC Calls to Action.
- Indigenous Partnerships: Working with IERHA Indigenous Health Services – Waabishki Bineshiins. Quarterly teachings led by Elder Cara Widrick. Program prepared to offer partnership clinics directly within First Nation communities.
- Service Delivery Update: Providing rapid, barrier-free access with 24-hour on-call availability. Full caseload booked until August, with protected capacity reserved for community partnerships. First partnership clinic launched at Lake Manitoba First Nation; follow-up visits scheduled bi-weekly.
- Next-Year Priorities: Expand community-based partnership clinics to 2 additional communities. Maintain focus on equitable access; target: At least 50% of caseload from priority populations; 2–3 ongoing partnership clinics; and recruitment and retention to achieve a full midwifery team.
- Notable Milestone: First delivery under the new program took place on December 29, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

Opportunity for questions was provided.

## **11. Committee Reports**

D. Fiebelkorn left the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

### **11.1 Finance Committee of the Whole**

The November 17, 2025, Finance Committee minutes were approved by the Board at the January 22, 2026, Finance Committee (of the Whole) meeting.

Financial statements for the period ending October 31, 2025, were reviewed and accepted at the January 22, 2026, Finance Committee (of the Whole) meeting.

### **11.2 Audit Committee**

Included for information, the September 25, 2025, JOINT Audit/Finance minutes were approved by Audit and Finance Committee (of the whole) at the December 15, 2025, joint meeting.

### 11.3 Quality and Patient Safety Committee of the Whole

No report. Next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2026.

### 11.4 Education, Policy and Planning Committee

#### 11.4.1 Approved Education, Policy and Planning Minutes (September 18, 2025)

Included for information, the November 20, 2025, Education, Policy and Planning minutes were approved by the Education, Policy and Planning Committee at the January 15, 2026, meeting.

#### 11.4.2 Policy Review

A. Jonasson noted that in line with the Education, Policy and Planning annual work plan the Committee reviewed the following policies at the January 15, 2026, meeting:

- GP. 15 – Board Orientation and Education
- GP. 16 - Board Relationships: Regional Residents
- GP. 17 – Board Relationships
- GP. 18 – Approval of New Policies and Policy Amendments

The Education, Policy and Planning Committee reviewed the recommended changes to the policies with the Board and ask that the Board adopt as presented.

Opportunity for questions and for any additional amendments was provided.

Moved by A. Jonasson, seconded by D. Erickson

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The Board of Directors approves the recommended changes to the following policies;

- GP. 15 – Board Orientation and Education
- GP. 16 - Board Relationships: Regional Residents
- GP. 17 – Board Relationships
- GP. 18 – Approval of New Policies and Policy Amendments,

as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED: 08.2026.01.11.4.2**

### 12. Liaison Reports

#### 12.1 Ethics

No report.

#### 12.2 Interlake Eastern Health Foundation

No report.

### 13. For Information - None

#### 14. Next Meeting

- Thursday, February 26, 2026 @ 1:45 p.m.  
Selkirk United Church – 202 McLean Ave., Selkirk, MB

#### 15. In Camera

Leadership was invited to stay; the Board Chair called for motion to go in camera.

Moved by P.A. Wainwright, seconded by L. Sigurdson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The meeting moved “in camera” at 3:30 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED: 08.2026.01.15A

Then Board Chair called for a motion to come out of camera.

Moved by C. Typliski, seconded by A. Jonasson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The meeting moved “out of camera” at 3:34 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED: 08.2026.01.15B

#### 16. Adjournment

Moved by L. Sigurdson, the meeting be adjourned at 3:34 p.m.