

**For Immediate Release  
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## **STEGH Achieves 3-Year Full Accreditation**

**St. Thomas, ON** – St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH) is proud to announce it has received Full Accreditation from Accreditation Canada following its on-site survey in June 2009. Full Accreditation status is the highest level achievable. The survey format, new this year, focuses heavily on patient safety.

“I congratulate our staff and physicians. The level of their dedication, compassion and commitment to delivering patient care excellence is reflected in this accreditation result. Our community can be very proud of them,” says Lyle McLean, Chair, STEGH Board of Governors.

Following the on-site survey last June, Accreditation Canada issued a Forecast Report, containing a summary of survey findings and improvement conditions to address before issuing the Final Report. The new and demanding Accreditation Canada process called Qmentum has resulted in most organizations receiving a Forecast Report with conditions, prior to the Final Report awarding full Accreditation. STEGH submitted evidence of having met all conditions by the January 28<sup>th</sup> deadline and has now achieved full Accreditation status.

“The Accreditation process is an ongoing 3 year cycle of improvement,” explains Paul Collins, STEGH President and CEO. “We welcome the continuous learning it provides for us as we begin to repeat the cycle and prepare for our next accreditation in 2012.”

In the preliminary report by Accreditation Canada, STEGH was praised for its strong emphasis on patient safety, and specifically noted practices such as an electronic incident reporting system, safety briefings, and a patient safety council.

Other strengths included:

- The organization’s sound financial condition with four consecutive years of balanced budgets.
- New strategic plan from the Board, being linked to operational planning throughout organization
- Organizational values effectively communicated and linked to decision making.
- Improvements in patient flow and the effective use of utilization software and effective bed meetings
- Employee opinion survey
- New tools for improving communication, specifically the electronic communication screens in public areas

Areas noted requiring ongoing attention:

- There have been many changes in numerous areas happening at the same time over an 8 month period which will require ongoing attention to sustain.
- Ethic framework needs to be revitalized (a condition that has since been met)
- Evaluate the newly implemented incident reporting process for effectiveness
- Complete the introduction of interdisciplinary teams and strive for strong physician involvement
- Review the facility design renovations for Emergency department

The full report is available on the hospital’s website at [www.stegh.on.ca](http://www.stegh.on.ca).

Accreditation Canada’s Qmentum program offers a customized process aligned with organizational needs and priorities. Organizations complete self-assessment questionnaires, collect indicator and instrument data, and undergo an on-site survey during which peer surveyors assess their services against national standards of excellence. Accreditation Canada is a not-for-profit, independent organization and its clients include Hospital, Regional Health Authorities, and community-based programs and services, from both private and public sectors.

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