



**Legacy Giving
Thunder Bay
presents
Marital Status
& Your Estate**

with speakers
Kady Stachiw & Nicole Rea,
Associate Lawyers,
Rene Larson Law Office

**Wednesday, Feb. 15th
at 7:00 PM
Chartwell Glacier Ridge,
Dining Room**

**Join us for this FREE
informative session
about marital status
and your estate.**

**R.S.V.P. to
Lindsey Wychopen at
(807) 684-7106
or wychopen@tbh.net**

Hosted by: Rene Larson Law Office,
Confederation College,
Northern Ontario School of Medicine,
St. Joseph's Foundation,
Thunder Bay Community Foundation,
and Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences Foundation

FREE information session on Marital Status and Your Estate. Feb 15 at 7 p.m. at Chartwell Glacier Ridge, Dining Room. Speakers are Kady Stachiw and Nicole Rea, Associate Lawyers, Rene Larson Law Office.

Marital Status and Your Estate

BY KADY STACHIW & NICOLE REA,
ASSOCIATE LAWYERS, RENE LARSON LAW OFFICE

Not many people want to contemplate Estate Planning because it means thinking about your own passing. However, it is important for many reasons. First and foremost, Estate Planning and having a valid Last Will and Testament will ensure that you have control over who inherits your Estate. Without a will there are many variables that effect how your Estate is distributed. A major concern is your marital status at your time of passing.

In Ontario, the Succession Law Reform Act is the piece of legislation that dictates how your property will be distributed after your death should you die without a will. Without a will, a legally married spouse receives what is called the preferential share, which is the first \$200,000.00 of the estate. If you have children, the remainder of the estate is split equally between the married spouse and the children.

In contrast, the Succession Law Reform Act does not recog-

nize common law relationships for the purposes of distribution after death; therefore, if you are in a common law relationship, your common law spouse is entitled to receive nothing from your estate. This means that if the you had no immediate family, a distant blood relative that you may have never even met, would be entitled by law to your estate over your surviving common law spouse.

Another twist on this situation is if you are separated but not legally divorced. If you have entered into a common law relationship but never divorced your first spouse and die without a will, your first spouse would be the one entitled to the preferential share. Again, your common law spouse would be entitled to receive nothing from your estate.

The best way to provide for the beneficiaries of your choosing is to have a valid Last Will and Testament. However, you should be aware that there are certain circumstances that may invalidate a Will you have prepared, and it relates to your marital status. A marriage will revoke a Last Will and Testament, unless the will was prepared in contemplation of

marriage. This means that if you have a will and then get married, the will is revoked by operation of law. This situation may be of concern if you were widowed and made a new will to provide for your children. If you remarry later, your will is revoked and your second spouse would take the preferential share, possibly leaving your children with no inheritance.

The bottom line is that life is short and unpredictable. A mistaken belief in who is legally entitled to inherit is a risk you do not have to take. It is important to meet with your lawyer to discuss your options and have him or her explain to you what the state of the law is with respect to your particular circumstances. Although it is critically important for everyone to have a will in place expressing his or her last wishes, people with unique marital statuses are in an unusual position when it comes to estate planning and estate law, which makes it even more important to have will. If there is one thing you do for your loved ones, make sure that you have a will.

Report from Nadine Doucette: Chair, Board of Directors, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre

The first month of the New Year has been ushered in with a focus on working closely with our health care partners to enhance patient care and some very promising news for our Health Research Institute.

On January 25th, we welcomed the Hon. Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs for Thunder Bay -Atikokan. This meeting provided the Hospital with an opportunity to brief one of our regional MPPs on several issues including an update on our Cyclotron, our Regional Orthopedic Program, the 2016 Operational Review recommendations and progress on the cardiovascular surgery program. With Brian Ktytor, Acting Chief Operating Officer of the North West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) also in attendance, we discussed our ongoing bed flow challenges and our commitment to find a solution.

The Resource Planning Committee, chaired by Board Director Grant Walsh, met on January 17. Peter Myllymaa, EVP, Corporate Services and Operations, provided a briefing on the financial and operational targets for the 2017-18 budget planning cycle. Amanda Bjorn, VP, Human Resources, also provided an update on our organizational development



The Audit Committee chaired by Board Director John Friday, endorsed a plan to allow Finance to conduct, quarterly, an independent internal audit of procurement transactions. Finance will select 10 to 20 procurement source samples and determine if the sourcing activity and authorization comply with the Hospital's procurement policies and Mandatory Requirements of the Procure-

ment Directive issued by the province. Findings, whether compliant or non-compliant, will be reported to the Committee through the EVP, Corporate Services and Operations. This independent internal audit will save the Hospital approximately \$7,725 annually in external audit costs.

I extend my gratitude to my fellow Board members for their engagement. I also thank them, and the Senior Leadership team, for their participation during our staff appreciation celebrations just before the holiday season. On December 19th, Board members and Senior Leaders helped to deliver food baskets on day and night shifts to every department of the Hospital as a token of appreciation for all the amazing contribution to patient care that our staff provides day in, and day out.

Finally, I extend my congratulations to all of the Walk the Talk Award Winners. The Board of Directors selected the Regional Critical Care Response (RCCR) Team to be the winner of the 2016 Walk the Talk Board of Directors Award. The RCCR Team was developed in March 2015 to provide hospitals in Northwestern Ontario with 24/7 access to critical care specialists via the Ontario Telemedicine Network. Using an inter-professional

care model, the RCCR team brings together the sending, transporting and receiving caregivers via telemedicine to create a collaborative care plan. The RCCR team provides resuscitative support, stabilization, quicker patient transfers and allows select patients to remain in their home hospitals with RCCR support.

Since its inception, the RCCR team has provided 401 video consultations, facilitated 349 air transfers and 90 patients were able to be maintained in their home hospitals.

RCCR has presented at several conferences and was recently awarded Honor Roll status for the 2016 Health Minister's Medal. They are deserving of the award, which recognizes the collaboration of the 17 involved organizations that have contributed to improving access to critical care services and enhanced quality of care within Northwestern Ontario. RCCR has received a Northern Ontario Academic Medicine Association (NOAM) research grant to study benefits of standardizing processes and impact on transfer times.

Masala Grille presents Spice for Heart

Masala Grille is celebrating Heart Awareness month by offering its Masala Gravy for \$5 per serving with 100% of the net proceeds supporting the Northern Cardiac Fund of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation.

Masala Gravy is a blend of spices in a tomato-onion base gravy that is used to create some of Masala Grille's aromatic and flavourful dishes. It is gluten free, nut-free and vegan-friendly with heart healthy spices including: garlic, ginger, coriander, cumin, turmeric, red chili, cinnamon, fenugreek and cardamom.

During the month of February, you can purchase it and create tasty dishes of your own! Try it as a base sauce and add your favourite ingredients to make a quick easy dish. For an exciting twist to everyday dishes, try some in your pastas, soups, on pizza or as a dip.

Share your dish to win prizes. Take a picture and describe the dish you created. On Facebook, post under the



'Spice for Heart' event on the Masala Grille page. On Instagram, use #spiceforheart #mymasalagravy #masalagrille for a chance to win weekly prizes.

Masala Gravy can be purchased at Masala Grille anytime during February or on Feb 6, 16, or 23 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Hospital (inside across from Volunteer Services on the main floor).

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