**Council Direction:**
Not applicable.

**Information:**
Accreditation is a process of self-assessment and external third-party peer review that results in formal recognition that a healthcare organization confirms to a specific set of best-practice standards. Accreditation surveys are completed every three years. Since 1987 Wentworth Lodge has been fully accredited with Accreditation Canada, formerly the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation. Wentworth Lodge’s next accreditation survey is scheduled for the spring of 2011.

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) has approved two organizations to provide accreditation review to Long Term Care (LTC) Homes; Accreditation Canada and an alternative, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) Canada. A LTC Home accredited with either organization is eligible for the MOHLTC accreditation premium of $0.33 per resident per day.

Despite Wentworth Lodge’s long-standing association with Accreditation Canada, our experience during the past two surveys has identified a divergence between the survey process and our need for clear outcomes that improve resident care. The preparation for an Accreditation Canada survey has become complex and onerous with multiple submissions prior to the survey date. There are requirements to complete on-line surveys by employees and stakeholders that are a challenge in our work environment. The on-line portal through which we are required to submit evidence to Accreditation Canada has been identified as a limitation.

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**Vision:** To be the best place in Canada to raise a child, promote innovation, engage citizens and provide diverse economic opportunities.

**Values:** Honesty, Accountability, Innovation, Leadership, Respect, Excellence, Teamwork
Canada is non-user friendly and labour intensive. The final survey reports were lacking in useful advice related to quality improvement.

A review of the CARF Canada process and comparison with the Accreditation Canada program was completed in 2009 as Macassa Lodge was preparing for their next survey. Analysis indicated that CARF Canada’s program was more closely aligned with both Macassa and Wentworth Lodges’ goals and operating environment and was more cost effective. The anticipated cost for the 2011 Wentworth Lodge survey with CARF Canada is $8,550 as compared to $15,000 with Accreditation Canada. Macassa Lodge’s positive experience with the CARF Canada survey in October 2010 supports the decision to move to this organization.

Wentworth Lodge has notified Accreditation Canada of our intent to withdraw and has applied to CARF Canada for accreditation renewal with a targeted survey date of late April 2011. Accreditation Canada will maintain Wentworth Lodge’s full accreditation status until that date. Staff at Wentworth Lodge are presently preparing for the survey with the assistance of CARF Canada accreditation specialists. Our experience during the preparation has been very positive. We are confident that CARF Canada can assist us in maintaining a strong quality improvement focus on resident-centred care with the full involvement of our residents, staff and families.