

Time for a new direction

Staff report morale at Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC) is at an all time low.

The MAHC is unable to recruit the health care professionals it needs to serve the community. Recently the hospital web site was advertising for a diagnostic imaging manager, an ultrasound technologist, a pathologist /laboratory medical director, a nurse coordinator, five registered nurses, two resource nurses, a pharmacist and a speech language pathologist.



More than 150 people came out for a union sponsored community meeting in March.

Is this the kind of behavior the community would like to see from their hospital?

The MAHC board recently gave itself a rating of 7.5 out of 10. That translates to a B grade.

The community may have a different grade in mind given this dismal performance.

There are problems at MAHC that need to be

While lab cuts have been temporarily suspended — left to be decided upon next spring — the hospital will face challenges keeping up with demand for laboratory work with too few technologists to fill the schedule. Unfairly firing a needed technologist has compounded the problem.

The firing of the OPSEU steward, and the discipline of others for speaking out, has led to a public relations meltdown for the hospital.

Unable to work with its employees, the hospital decided to contract out its human resources to a Kingston-based company with an aggressive reputation.

resolved. The hospital needs to start working with its staff — as one local editorial states: “joining forces rather than infighting and firing people is surely a better option.”

The list of needed professionals will continue to grow if the hospital does not respect those that are already here.

And the local medical community needs the assurance that lab services are in the hospital’s long range plans.

The community is watching and waiting.

The time to act is now.

