Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

NEW Directions

September 25, 2008

New Health Capital Investment Branch *consolidates* capital functions

The new organizational structure of the Health Capital Investment Branch has been completed to the staff level, John McKinley, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health System Information Management and Investment (HSIMI) announced today. The change will provide a single point of contact for all capital functions and increase the integration of capital planning, project review, approvals and project management.

The functions carried out by the former Capital Planning and Strategies Branch, Health Reform Implementation Team and the Alternative Financing and Procurement Branch have been brought under the umbrella of the new branch and all functions were reviewed to ensure they fit into the ministry's stewardship mandate.

"The new consolidated branch will focus on stewardship of capital investment, with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of health capital infrastructure in our province," said McKinley. "We will be better able to guide the ministry in setting capital priorities and making strategic investment decisions which link health system needs with health capital investments."

The new branch's mandate and structure (see page 2 for details) is based on an extensive review of the ministry's processes, which involved many key stakeholders both within and outside the ministry.

McKinley said that external stakeholders are very supportive of the new mandate and the move to a single branch. The new branch will make it easier for them to work with the ministry on capital projects by:

- Streamlining processes
- Clarifying policies and standards
- Communicating evaluation criteria clearly
- Helping service providers to identify and manage risks
- Working with health services providers to facilitate approval of capital plans
- Ensuring an integrated approach to the development of capital infrastructure across a LHIN region
- Increasing our capacity to provide project management expertise.

Changes have been made to the branch structure that will help deliver on the mandate and support health service providers. These include:

- Three Capital Projects Units supporting capital planning, project review and the overall approval process are organized geographically (North East, West and GTA regions) and aligned with the LHIN Liaison Branch
- A project management office for capital to provide tools, best practices, status monitoring and technical services
- A unit devoted to programs and standards.

"This structure creates strong links between the capital and operating functions. It also centralizes programs and standards and allows for a more focused project management approach," McKinley said.

The new branch will come into effect on Oct. 6, 2008. Staff positions from the former Capital Planning and Strategies Branch, Health Reform Implementation Team and Alternative Financing and Procurement Branch have been reviewed using the same principles which have been applied throughout the ministry's transition.

"I am pleased that we will be able to retain our many talented capital staff within the ministry," said McKinley. The transition to this geographically focused capital allocation system will take time and branch employees will continue with their current project assignments until otherwise notified."

McKinley thanked the division's staff for all their hard work and dedication, particularly over these past few months during the planning of the capital transition. "The changes announced today are a significant step forward for our division. We now have the broad range of roles and functions we need to carry out our new work and support health service providers to successfully deliver capital projects." ■

*Editor's note: Health system stakeholders will be able to access contact information for the new branch through **INFO-GO** — the Ontario government's online corporate directory — effective Oct. 6, 2008.*

Health Capital Investment Branch Capital Projects Unit: Allocation of projects

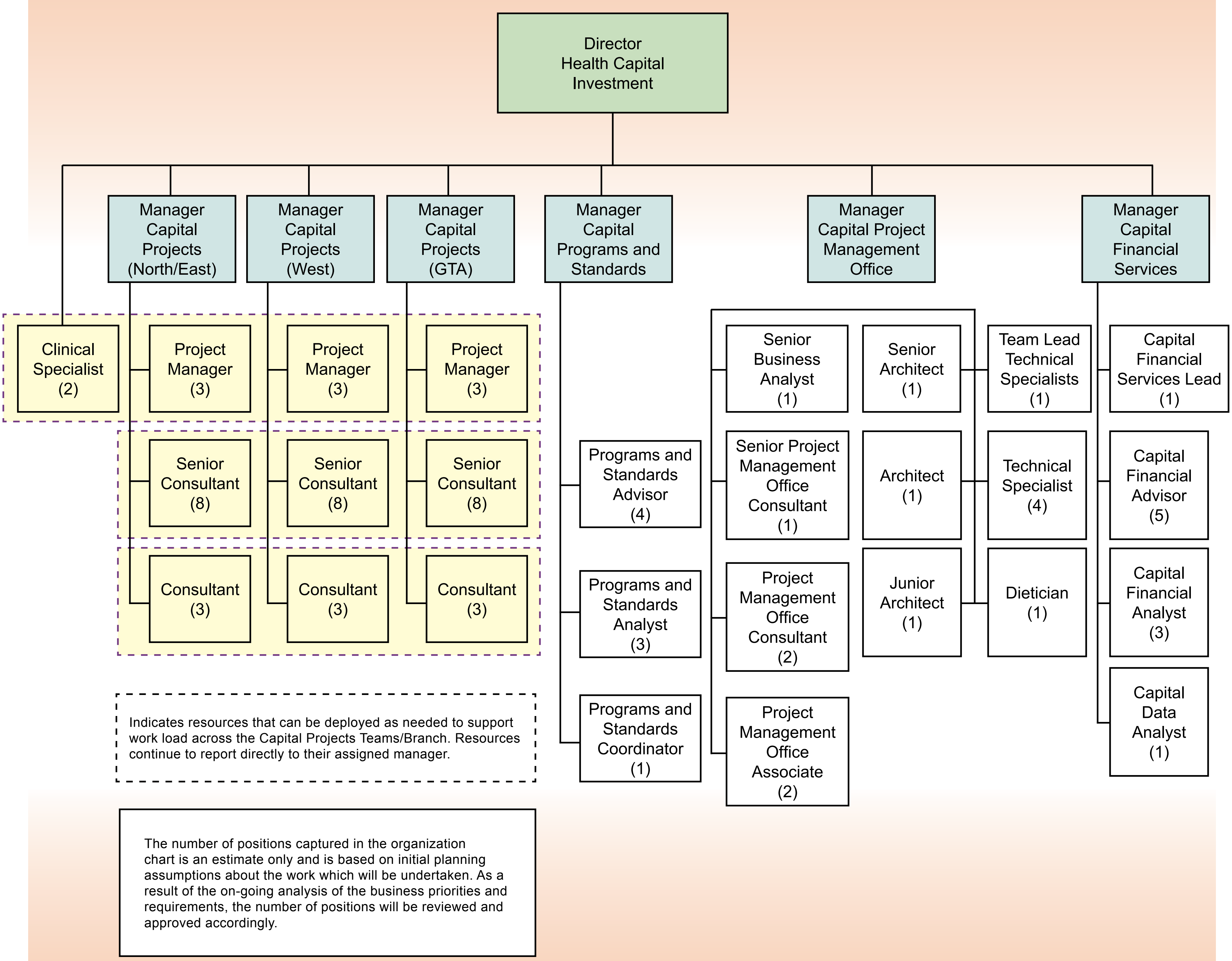
The Capital Project Units are responsible for supporting the capital planning, project review and project approval processes. The three units will be organized geographically and aligned with the LHIN Liaison Branch.

	Manager Capital Projects North/East	Manager Captial Projects West	Manager Capital Projects GTA
LHINs	• South East • Champlain • North Simcoe Muskoka • North East • North West	• Erie St. Clair • South West • Waterloo Wellington • Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant	• Central West • Mississauga Halton • Toronto Central • Central • Central East

Health Capital Investment Branch mandate:

- Facilitate strategic investment decisions which link health system needs with health capital investments
- Develop and communicate leading-edge health capital policies and standards to stakeholders
- Manage decision-making process for redevelopment of facilities and new health services to the public through project design, project completion and the ongoing operation of services
- Ensure capital programs are implemented in accordance with mandated legislation and health investment capital strategies, policies and standards
- Develop and implement risk management strategies for the lifecycle of projects.

Health System Information Management and Investment
Health Capital Investment Branch
Organizational Chart



NEW Directions

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Do you have questions about the organizational change?
- Ask your manager
- E-mail your questions or comments to the feedback account at *anewdirection.moh@ontario.ca*