



J.P. MOCZULSKI FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Jeff Lozon, chairman of the new Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, is in a jovial mood yesterday while attending a luncheon at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto to honour retirees of St. Michael's Hospital where he is chief executive.

# The leader chosen to fight cancer

## CEO saved Toronto hospital from ruin; now he's to chair new national agency

BY LISA PRIEST, TORONTO

He's at his desk by 7 a.m. most days and works late into the evening. He turned a hospital facing financial ruin into one of the most efficient in Toronto. And he's known as one guy who just doesn't screw things up.

Of all of Jeff Lozon's strengths, that last one may be key, given that he was named yesterday by Prime Minister Stephen Harper as chairman of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, an arm's-length agency with a \$260-million budget over five years.

There's a lot at stake with the new agency: the high hopes of the cancer community and the Conservative government, which wants it to show leadership and vision.

"[Mr. Lozon] is not an empire builder and he's certainly not a bureaucracy builder," said Terrence Sullivan, president and chief executive officer of Cancer Care Ontario.

In fact, Mr. Lozon, 55, is the op-

posite of big government. He is known for not building management teams any bigger than they need to be.

But his record as manager is nothing short of remarkable. When he stepped inside St. Michael's Hospital as its president and chief executive officer in 1992, he was broadsided by a staggering \$63-million debt. Not only did he erase that debt in 1998, two years ahead of schedule, his hospital is one of the few that now hands in balanced budgets every year — at a time when other hospital presidents are hollering for more government cash.

Many chief executive officers might have made a few enemies over the hard fiscal choices that were inevitably made to resuscitate the teaching hospital. But apparently not Mr. Lozon, a man of considerable personal charm.

"He's a well respected leader and manager," said Dr. Alan Hudson, head of Ontario's Wait-Time Strate-

gy. "He's been leading St. Mike's for years and has a proven track record."

It's a track record for which Mr. Lozon is well compensated: He is the second-highest paid hospital chief executive officer in Ontario, earning in 2005, a total of \$610,230.32 in combined salary and taxable benefits, according to Ontario's Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act. Of that, his salary is \$599,026.48; the remaining \$11,203.84 is a taxable benefit.

Mr. Lozon also has government experience, having served as deputy health minister in Ontario from 1999 to 2000.

Mr. Lozon has gone from young fiscal guru, taking his first hospital chief executive officer post in Edmonton at the age of 36, to a more seasoned, accomplished man of 55, ready to embrace this new challenge.

"It's important to have a national strategy [for cancer]," Mr. Lozon said in an interview. "This is a disease that affects potentially anyone, anywhere in Canada. ... The health of our nation will be positively affected if we deal with the problem."

An estimated 153,100 Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer this year and 70,400 will likely die of it, according to Canadian Cancer Society figures.

When implemented, a strategy for cancer control over the next three decades could prevent at least 1.2 million Canadians from developing cancer and save 420,000 lives and more than \$39-billion in direct health-care costs, according to the cancer society website.

Now, it is up to Mr. Lozon and vice-chairman, Dr. Simon Sutcliffe, president of the BC Cancer Agency, to get down to the business of structuring a cancer-control agency that not only can work at arm's length from the federal government, but one in which cancer patients can see a difference on the ground.

"I would like to hit the ground running as fast as we can," he said.

While holding the agency chairmanship, Mr. Lozon will stay on as president and chief executive officer of St. Michael's Hospital.

And while his curriculum vitae lists his interests as golf, cooking and reading, chances are, he won't have much time for them — at least for the next while.