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## Hospital staff 'flabbergasted' by cuts: nurse

From page 1.

hospitals because they have vacancy and nobody's affected."

The hospital's latest juggling act to balance its budget came as a shock to many at the hospital, said a nurse, who has been working there for 11 years and requested not to be identified in fear of losing her job.

"Yes, we have a deficit, but I don't think anybody knew anything. The entire place was absolutely flabber-gasted (by the shuffling)," she said.

"The kitchen staff were all told after the lunch was over."

She said 15 part-timers were laid off from the kitchen and that there were talks of the hospital bringing in a Tim Hortons as well as outsourcing the cafeteria on the lower level.

"People that were laid off were told that they were welcome to come to a job fair to reapply for jobs with these companies, which of course will be at a lot less wage," she said, adding a lot of people are "pissed off" about what she called Ms Beed's "astronomical" salary.

"If you look at the Sunshine list, Janet Beed was given a raise. It's quite interesting that she was given a raise while (others) were laid off," she said.

Neil Walker is the chief operating officer at MSH.

## 15 KITCHEN STAFFERS GONE

In an interview with The Sun-Tribune, he confirmed a Tim's on the Go will be brought in to the cafeteria on the lower level in a few months.

Mr. Walker said the hospital had hoped to receive enough growth funding to help cover costs to expand programs and services to meet the growing needs in Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville. However, "Our activity level costs us more than we are funded. The initiative we implemented (Tuesday) will help us decrease that deficit."

Asked if the cafeteria will be outsourced, he said Compass Group, a food service company, held a job fair at the Markham Village Train Station on Wednesday. It was open to anyone, but "we made staff aware of it," he said.

"Our food service had been costing us money. We are hopeful now we will be able to break even or make a little bit of profit on our food service delivery."

In the meantime, the hospital has hired new staff during the last year to support its emergency department, but Mr. Walker wouldn't say how many because "there's not a direct correlation" between the new positions and the ones that were cut.

Markham Stouffville Hospital will also be shutting down non-essential services for 10 days — two days in July, five in August, two in October and one in November — to save an estimated \$1 million.