

From: Mayors of Memramcook, Dorchester, Sackville, Port Elgin and the Chief of Fort Folly

October 27, 2021

Open Letter to Residents of Memramcook-Tantramar

Re: Memramcook-Tantramar Community Task Force – Rural Health Action Group

The Rural Health Action Group, is a dedicated group of citizens and local politicians advocating for maintaining and improving of healthcare services in the Memramcook-Tantramar Region.

In May of 2021, the action group provided a Vision for Health Care for our rural area as part of the consultation process on healthcare reform that was initiated by the Minister of Health in late 2020. The vision that was submitted to Minister Shephard can be found here: <https://sackville.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Health-Care-Reform-Sackville-Tantramar.pdf>

As the province inches closer to providing their healthcare reform paper, we believe it is important to highlight the continued efforts of the Rural Health Action Group and the constant support they are receiving from community leaders in the region.

We are presently concentrating on having Horizon Health and the Minister of Health recognize that Emergency and Acute Inpatient Care are essential services for our region that must be maintained at the Sackville Memorial Hospital. Furthermore, ensuring we see a return to 24/7 ER operations once staffing allows is also a major priority.

We are working with officials in these organizations to ensure these urgent areas are at the forefront of any vision for healthcare in our region.

In addition, the action group continues to develop a marketing strategy to help attract and recruit healthcare personnel directly to our region and are pleased to be working with Horizon Health on this endeavour.

As community leaders, we expect Minister Shephard to have included our vision of healthcare in the reform process. We want to reassure our citizens across the region that there is a dedicated team of community leaders and volunteers who are working to restore and improve healthcare services to the Sackville Memorial Hospital.

We will continue to keep our region informed on local efforts being made as we move forward, and we are confident that our dedication and work is being heard in Fredericton. As we have heard on many similar occasions – we are all in this together – and collaboration, strategy and innovative thinking will be key to overcoming the healthcare challenges we currently face.

Yours truly,



Shawn Mesheau
Mayor, Town of Sackville



Maxime Bourgeois
Mayor, Memramcook



Debbie Wiggins-Colwell
Mayor, Dorchester



Chief Rebecca Knockwood
Fort Folly First Nation



Jason Stokes
Mayor, Port Elgin

Village of Port Elgin

cc: Sackville Town Council
Chief Rebecca Knockwood, Fort Folly First Nation
Mayor Maxime Bourgeois, Memramcook
Mayor Debbie Wiggins-Colwell, Dorchester
Mayor Jason Stokes, Port Elgin
MLA Megan Mitton
Dr. John Dornan, Interim President and CEO Horizon Health Network