



Naturally Yours

414 Woodlawn Drive, PO Box 280 Shelburne, NS BOT 1W0, Phone: (902) 875-3544 - Fax: (902) 875-1278

---

July 28, 2023

Department of Health and Wellness  
Barrington Tower  
1894 Barrington Street  
P.O. Box 488  
Halifax, NS B3J 2R8

Attention: Honourable Michelle Thompson, Minister of Health and Wellness  
Email: [Health.Minister@novascotia.ca](mailto:Health.Minister@novascotia.ca)

**Re: Emergency Health Services in Shelburne County: A Call for Immediate Action**

Dear Minister Thompson,

At the July 12, 2023, Council Meeting, Municipal Council held discussion of the current state of emergency health services and paramedic staffing levels within Shelburne County. During this discussion, it was determined that this community continues to struggle with excessive ambulance waiting times, putting our residents at unnecessary risk of avoidable health complications.

Over the past year, we have seen announcements regarding significant investments made to improve Emergency Health Services in this Province such as the addition of ambulances and transport vans, the employment of 100 transport operators, monetary salary bonuses, subsidy to tuition for paramedics and the addition of an aircraft to assist with hospital-to-hospital transfer of patients. Have these improvements been implemented, and success measured? From the perception of this community, it appears these measures have not improved the EHS response times as we continue to receive inadequate EHS coverage, resulting in response times of up to two hours.

On behalf of the Municipality of Shelburne, I am requesting an update on the province's hiring strategy to full paramedic shortages, timelines for full implementation of the above noted investments and any success measuring tools that will provide service analytics on how these investments have positively impacted the code red situations we often see throughout rural Nova Scotia.

Thank you for your attention to this critical situation, I look forward to hearing from you.

Warren MacLeod, CAO  
[warren.MacLeod@municipalityofshelburne.ca](mailto:warren.MacLeod@municipalityofshelburne.ca) [www.municipalityofshelburne.ca](http://www.municipalityofshelburne.ca)

Penny Smith, Warden  
[warden@municipalityofshelburne.ca](mailto:warden@municipalityofshelburne.ca)

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Penny Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "S".

Penny Smith, Warden  
Municipality of the District of Shelburne

C: Nolan Young, MLA – Shelburne