



Naturally Yours

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March 12, 2024

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

Re: Emergency Department Closures

Dear Minister Thompson,

On behalf of Council, I want to express our extreme concern following the recent Shelburne County Community/NSH Stakeholder Group meeting. The statistics regarding emergency department closures presented have left us deeply disheartened. The numbers speak for themselves: our ER closures have nearly doubled from November to January compared to the same period last year.

ER Closures (Hours):	2023/24	2022/23
January	413	179
December	418	292
November	402	164
Total:	1,233	635

Moreover, notice was posted that our ER will be closed for almost an entire week over the March break, from March 11 to March 17. This development is alarming, especially when compared to other emergency department closures across the entire Province. While a few experienced temporary closures, none matched the severity being experienced by Roseway Hospital.

In a region where emergency services often face delays of an hour (sometimes longer) for Emergency Health Services (EHS) to arrive, diverting our emergencies to Liverpool or Yarmouth, approximately another hour away, is simply unacceptable. Our residents deserve better!

The steady rise in emergency department hour closures over the past three months, culminating in an almost week-long closure, paints a distressing picture of healthcare delivery in our region.

Warren MacLeod, CAO

warren.MacLeod@municipalityofshelburne.ca

www.municipalityofshelburne.ca

Penny Smith, Warden

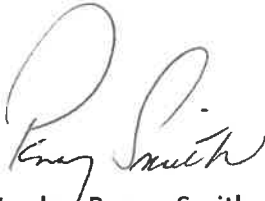
warden@municipalityofshelburne.ca

With the government's commitment to improving healthcare, one would expect to see reductions in ER closures, not a worsening trend.

The deterioration of emergency department hours represents just one facet of our healthcare grievances. It is imperative that we address these ongoing healthcare issues without delay. As always, the Municipality is willing to work with and provide any assistance we can in ensuring that our residents receive the best healthcare possible.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and eagerly await your response.

Yours Sincerely,

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

Warden Penny Smith

C: Nolan Young, MLA – Shelburne