



Warden Penny Smith, Municipality of Shelburne
414 Woodlawn Drive, PO Box 280
Shelburne, NS, BOT 1W0

Dear Warden Smith and Municipal Council;

Thank you for sharing your letter to the Minister of Health and Wellness expressing the concerns of Council and the community over the Roseway Hospital emergency department schedule.

I want you to know that Nova Scotia Health leadership at every level shares your concerns.

Since the information was originally shared about this week's emergency department schedule, teams have continued working extremely hard to secure additional coverage. While it is still far from ideal, we have been able to reduce the hours of closure in this time period. At the same time, additional access to primary healthcare services was enhanced with the introduction of a Mobile Primary Healthcare Clinic in Shelburne on Wednesday evening, March 13. We are working to see how we can make more mobile primary care clinics available in this area in the weeks ahead.

As a standing agenda item at our regular Shelburne community partners meetings, the Roseway Hospital emergency department schedule is something we have talked about together at length, and certainly will continue to do so. Being able to provide urgent treatment care at times when emergency services are not available is an option we are exploring and hope to provide more information to you about in the near future.

We have been encouraged by our shared success in recruiting family physicians, nurse practitioners and other primary care providers to Shelburne County. We are committed to continue to work with you to help translate this success in a way that will lead to a more reliable, consistent emergency department schedule. We continue to be committed to doing everything possible to keep the Roseway Hospital emergency department open 24/7/365.

Helping the community understand what healthcare services are available, and how they can access services, especially at times when the emergency department may be closed is a priority. We are especially grateful for the help and support of our partners in helping share this information with the community. Thank you.

We are looking forward to soon sharing more details on enhanced access with the Shelburne Primary Care Clinic, such as evening availability and the addition of regular clinic services in the communities of Lockeport and Clark's Harbour. This work would not be possible without the strong partnerships we have fostered with local municipal units and provincial representative.

We deeply appreciate being able to work within such an engaged community, and we are thankful for your advocacy on behalf of the work we do. We apologize for the concerns and fear caused by the closures of our emergency department. We want your Council and the entire community to know this is an issue we are taking very seriously. We remain committed to working with our partners to explore all options to bring stability to emergency department services at Roseway Hospital.

Sincerely,

Tanya L. Nixon
Vice President Operations - Western Zone

Dr Cheryl Pugh
MD MBA FRCS(FC) FACOG CCPE
Medical Executive Director
Western Zone

cc. Nolan Young, MLA Shelburne
Honourable Michelle Thompson, Minister of Health
Warren MacLeod, CAO, Municipality of Shelburne