



February 14, 2025

Karen Oldfield
President & CEO
Nova Scotia Health
90 Lovett Lake Court
Halifax, NS
B3S 0H6

Email: ceo@nshealth.ca

Re: Request for Meeting to Address Roseway Hospital Emergency Department Crisis

Dear Ms. Oldfield,

We are reaching out as the leadership of Shelburne County—comprising the Mayors, Wardens, Deputy Mayors and Deputy Wardens of the five municipal units—to request a meeting to discuss the urgent state of the Roseway Hospital Emergency Department following the publication of the *Annual Accountability Report on Emergency Departments for 2023/24*.

The report revealed some deeply concerning statistics. Roseway Hospital currently has the longest wait times in the province at an average of 13.68 hours—4.62 times greater than the provincial average. Additionally, Roseway experienced the highest number of temporary ER closures last year, totaling 4,832 hours, or an alarming 201 days. These numbers confirm what our community has been experiencing firsthand for far too long: a healthcare system that is failing to meet the needs of our residents.

For several years, our community has been actively engaged with the Nova Scotia Health Stakeholders Group to address seven critical healthcare concerns, which we outlined in our letter to the Minister of Health on June 12, 2024. While we do not want to lose sight of these concerns, our immediate priority is the issue of ER closures. While we have remained committed to working collaboratively toward solutions, progress has been frustratingly slow. The latest report only intensifies our community's growing frustration.

Our concerns grew when we recently learned that there has been consideration of downgrading the Roseway Emergency Department to an Urgent Treatment Centre. This is particularly distressing given that our nearest alternative emergency department is over an hour's drive away. Moreover, we already have an

Urgent Treatment Centre in the form of the Shelburne Family Practice, located next door to Roseway Hospital.

That being said, we remain hopeful. We understand that you have expressed openness to the possibility of a Hybrid Emergency Department model, as recently presented by Paula Sutherland. While we are not healthcare professionals, we recognize that this model is successfully employed in New Brunswick and British Columbia and that hospitals in both Queens and Annapolis Counties are also interested in piloting it. Given that current efforts have yet to achieve the desired improvements, we are keen to explore whether this hybrid model could offer a practical solution for reducing ER wait times and closures in Shelburne County.

We firmly believe that every resident of Nova Scotia deserves equitable access to healthcare, yet the statistics show that this is simply not the case in our region. We see you as a potential champion for resolving this crisis, and we would very much like to discuss the feasibility of the hybrid model with you.

We understand the demands on your time, but given the gravity of this situation, we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and your team. If a visit to Shelburne is not feasible, we are more than willing to travel to Halifax to facilitate this discussion.

We would be grateful for your consideration of this request and look forward to hearing your thoughts on how we can work together to ensure that the residents of Shelburne County receive the level of care they deserve.

Thank you for your time and leadership, and we hope to engage in a productive conversation soon.

Sincerely,



Warden Penny Smith

Municipality of Shelburne



Mayor Clay Kenney

Town of Clark's Harbour



Warden Shaun Hatfield

Municipality of Barrington



Mayor Derek Amalfa

Town of Lockeport



Mayor Stanley Jacklin

Town of Shelburne

Cc: The Honourable Michelle Thompson, Minister of Health and Wellness - health.minister@novascotia.ca
The Honourable Nolan Young, MLA – Shelburne - nolan.young@shelburnemla.ca
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