

Mayor Kevin Lundrigan of Burin addresses the public at the Health Accord NL rally in Marystown March 27, 2022.

With the Health Accord for Newfoundland and Labrador now in hands of our government; with a title “A 10 Year Transformation”.

The recommendations of the Health Accord NL would have a major impact to our residents in Burin and the entire Burin Peninsula population from English Harbour East in the bottom of Fortune Bay to Point May at the top of Placentia Bay.

As Mayor for the Town of Burin, I will focus on the proposed recommendations to the Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre. The hospital located in Burin now provides a full spectrum of necessary services including Surgery, Obstetrics and an Intensive Care Unit, all which are vital to the residents of the entire Burin Peninsula.

Factors such as our geographic location, road conditions and unpredictable weather which often closes down the Burin Peninsula emphasizes the need for these services to stay at the Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre.

There should be No services removed from the Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre.

As a member of the Committee formed to protect health care services for residents, we met with the authors of the Health Accord NL; Sister Elizabeth Davis and Dr. Pat Parfrey. In addition, we meet with Minister of Health, Dr. John Haggie and VP of Innovation of Rural Health for Eastern Health, Ron Jonston.

During both of those meetings, we strongly voiced our concerns against any loss of health care services to our residents of the entire Burin Peninsula.

There should be No services removed from the Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre.

Sister Davis and Dr. Parfrey informed the Committee that the hospitals and services on the Burin Peninsula would be aligned with the Health Accord NL vision and service delivery.

This would mean that they would be strongly recommending the removal of specialty services at the Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre including Surgery, Obstetrical Care, and the Intensive Care Unit.

We certainly cannot see how the removal of these specialty services from the Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre will be an improvement to health care for Burin Peninsula residents. It just don't make sense.

These recommendations will bring Burin Peninsula Health Care back 35 to 40 years, similar to the days of the Cottage Hospital System. We deserve better than this.

Do we really want to go back in time when family members spent weeks in St. John's away from their love ones? I remember quite well the days when my family were separated during the last 4 -6 weeks of their pregnancy in order to access obstetrical services in St. John's.

At a time when Municipalities are working hard to grow our towns; by attracting industry and employment opportunities, who would want to move to an area with substandard health care?

These recommendations will have a negative impact on young families wishing to live in rural Newfoundland.

There should be NO health care cuts to Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre.

We all must stand strong against Health Care Cuts and encourage our elected officials of Government to improve Health Care on the Burin Peninsula, we will not accept any recommendations that will negatively affect our residents health.

There **WILL** be **NO** health care cuts to Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre.

To quote some words from an important lady, Stay Strong Burin Peninsula residents. Hold Fast Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre!!!