

PUBLIC SERVICE ADVISORY - TOWN OF BURIN

RE: HEALTH ACCORD NL.

Town officials throughout the Burin Peninsula have come together in response to the recommendations put forth in the Health Accord NL's report - recommendations on healthcare reform and delivery of services on the Burin Peninsula and we are asking for and need your help as residents as we move through this process.

Since the fall of 2021, we have engaged the Authors of Health Accord NL and voiced concern of any loss of services to the residents of the Burin Peninsula. While we recognized there are improvements to be made in provincial healthcare delivery, we feel strongly that the cost not be at the expense of the our residents

The report released in February 2022, speaks of many positive changes, increased mental health services, primary health care services and community care teams implemented. Facilities and services on the Burin Peninsula will be reclassified and services aligned with the health accord NL's vision of service delivery.

Although not specifically referenced in the report, we know from our discussions with the authors of Health Accord NL's, that they would be strongly recommending the removal of specialty services at the Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre such as surgical services, intensive care unit and Obstetrical care.

They have also informed us that they would be recommending conversion of the emergency rooms at the U.S. Memorial health center in St.Lawrence and Dr.S.Becky health centre in Grand Bank to community urgent care centres which would operate with a health team, and only during daytimes.

The authors of Health Accord NL feel it financially beneficial to offer these services in a more centralized location in one of the three new "regional hospitals".

This means our residents experiencing a medical emergency will not be able to avail of life saving surgery or intensive care services here on the peninsula anymore. It also means that our loved ones requiring surgery for cancer, will have to avail of these services at another facility, away from their family and support system. We know how important family support is for the healing process. It also means that mothers will have to leave their homes, and stay in another area of the province while awaiting the birth of their child. Uprooting their families or leaving them behind during this very important time. It's either that or risk travelling down the peninsula, potentially in winter and being stuck while labouring on the highway. This is real folks.

Having our residents travel down the Burin Peninsula during a time of medical emergency when we have provided these services all along, is an unnecessary risk to patients, EMS services and our healthcare workers alike. It is also a financial burden to residents and families to have to travel to another area of our province to receive care.

At a time when we are trying to grow our towns, attract industry and employment- this is very much resettlement language. What young families are going to want to come to the peninsula with sub par health care services? Who will want their aging parents left behind in an area without these services? We need to let them know, we will not settle for it!

Please come out to our rally scheduled MARCH 20TH at 2 pm. We will be gathering at the Peninsula Mall parking lot to show our voices! We need to send the message that our residents and health are worth more than just numbers.

Let's unite as a region, this affects all of us on the Peninsula. If we don't show unity in large numbers for our services, we will likely lose them!!

Please come out to the Peninsula Mall parking lot, Sunday MARCH 20TH at 2pm.

WE NEED YOUR VOICES TO BE HEARD!!!!

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