

Reference No. 2020-12

March 3, 2020

Honourable Blaine Higgs  
Premier  
Chancery Place  
675 King Street  
Fredericton, NB E3B 1E9

Email: premier@gnb.ca

Dear Premier Higgs:

During a Special Meeting of Council in the Town of Sackville on Monday March 2, 2020, the following Resolution was unanimously passed by Council.

MOVED BY DEPUTY MAYOR RON AIKEN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BRUCE PHINNEY THAT “WHEREAS, THE MAJORITY OF RESIDENTS OF SACKVILLE HAVE CLEARLY INDICATED THAT CHANGES ANNOUNCED ON FEBRUARY 11, 2020 TO RURAL HOSPITALS WERE UNACCEPTABLE, AND

WHEREAS, IN MOST CASES, THE STATED ACTIONS WERE THE WRONG SOLUTIONS TO PROPERLY ADDRESS THE UNDERLYING PROBLEMS IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, AND

WHEREAS, THERE WAS A COMPLETE LACK OF CONSULTATION WITH HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AND WITH THE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES AND,

WHEREAS, THE MAJORITY OF RESIDENTS OF SACKVILLE HAVE, BECAUSE OF THE ACTIONS OF HORIZON HEALTH NETWORK AND VITALITIÉ HEALTH NETWORK, LOST TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF THESE PROVINCIAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS,

THEREFORE, WE ASK FOR THE IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, THE CEO OF HORIZON HEALTH NETWORK AND THE CEO OF VITALITIÉ HEALTH NETWORK, AND FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK TO PROVIDE A CLEAR AND FINAL RENUNCIATION OF THE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED PLANS FOR RURAL HOSPITALS, AND COMMIT TO LAUNCH A NEW AND RURAL-INFORMED PROCESS TO DEVELOP PRACTICAL AND COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS TO THE UNDERLYING ISSUES IN OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. MOTION CARRIED.

This Resolution was not made in haste, but rather after listening to the residents of the Town of Sackville and surrounding areas and the lack of disrespect for the rural communities shown by the Minister of Health and the CEO's of Horizon and Vitalitie a clear message was sent to Council to call for the immediate removal of those identified in the Resolution.

Sincerely,

John Higham  
Mayor, Town of Sackville  
Cc: Town Council  
MLA Megan Mitton  
Chief Knockwood