

**Information Sheet: Reasons to Advocate for a Moratorium on the Closure of the Minden ER**  
Developed by: [www.mindenmatters.com](http://www.mindenmatters.com)

1. Impact on vulnerable populations:
  - Closure raises concerns about accessibility for elderly and low-income individuals and increased wait times at the Haliburton hospital.
  - The Minden ER is essential for providing timely care to the community, especially during the summer months when the population triples. Less than 50% of Haliburton has a family doctor.
  - Decision risks exacerbating mental health, precarious work, domestic violence, and substance use disorders/drug toxicity/crime.
2. Community growth and economic impact:
  - Haliburton has grown at more than double the provincial and national average.
  - The closure could negatively impact growth trends and social determinants of health in the region.
  - Implications for attracting and retaining both permanent residents and seasonal visitors.
3. Impact on first responders and emergency services:
  - Paramedics will face increased travel times and stress due to longer hospital transfers.
  - Potentially decreased availability of paramedics due to increased workload and the need for self-care.
  - Additional pressure on volunteer fire departments to answer medical calls.
4. Implications for hospital staff and volunteers:
  - Increased stress and workload for remaining staff at the consolidated emergency department.
  - Longer commutes for some staff members, potentially affecting job satisfaction and retention.
  - Impact on volunteer workers who support the Minden Hospital (and the region in general)
5. Lack of transparency and consultation:
  - Decision-making process criticized for not involving local elected officials and the community. The essential healthcare needs of our vulnerable populations have not been adequately considered.
  - Concerns about the long-term plan for the Minden ER facilities.
6. “Enormous pressure” caused by staff shortages:
  - The closure is the latest example of the deepening human resource crisis in healthcare, nursing advocates say.
  - The issue has been exacerbated by the pandemic and increased workload exhaustion.

"The Ford Conservative government is focused on opening private for-profit surgical clinics owned by investors and corporations. That an ER in a rural hospital that supports thousands of people and sees a tripling of its population over the summer months has no choice but to close does not even hit their radar." - NDP health critic France Gélinas

"There's two emergency rooms in Haliburton County. And I know the population fluctuates in the summer time. But that's lots of access to emergencies." Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton-Kawartha-Lakes Brock

[MPP Scott] has been "in close contact" with the board and CEO throughout the "entire process". "This is a local decision that they have made in the best interest to serve their community in the long-term."  
Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones

"?" – Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Note: When contacting people and/or organizations to stop the closure of the Minden Hospital, be respectful, positive, and constructive.

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Ex-Officio Board Members  
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Ontario Health Coalition: (416) 441-2502  
Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Ontario: [ontario.cmha.ca](http://ontario.cmha.ca), (416) 977-5580  
Ontario Society of Senior Citizens Organizations (OSSCO): [ossco.org](http://ossco.org), (416) 785-8570  
ARCH Disability Law Centre: [archdisabilitylaw.ca](http://archdisabilitylaw.ca), (416) 482-8255  
The Advocacy Centre for the Elderly (ACE): [acelaw.ca](http://acelaw.ca), (416) 598-2656  
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH): [camh.ca](http://camh.ca), (416) 535-8501  
Ontario Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility: 1-844-493-2997  
Canadian Association for Retired Persons (CARP): [carp.ca](http://carp.ca), (416) 363-8748  
Canadian Constitution Foundation: [theccf.ca](http://theccf.ca), (416) 902-8281  
Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms: [jccf.ca](http://jccf.ca), (403) 669-5900  
Disability Rights Advocacy Centre: [drac.ca](http://drac.ca), (416) 967-7412  
Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) [ccd@ccdonline.ca](mailto:ccd@ccdonline.ca)  
Canadian Medical Association: 613-731-8610

**Work with local elected officials to leave no stone unturned.**

Algonquin Highlands: [algonquinhighlands.ca/council](http://algonquinhighlands.ca/council)  
Dysart et al: [dysartet.al.ca/township-council](http://dysartet.al.ca/township-council)  
Highlands East: [highlandseast.ca/en/government/council.asp](http://highlandseast.ca/en/government/council.asp)  
Minden Hills: [mindenhills.ca/council](http://mindenhills.ca/council)