**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.

Premier Doug Ford: premier@ontario.ca, (416) 325-1941

Sylvia Jones MPP: 1-800-265-1603, sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org

Laurie Scott MPP: laurie.scottco@pc.ola.org, (705) 324-6654

MP Jamie Schmale: Jamie.Schmale@parl.gc.ca, (705) 324-2400

HHHS CEO (Carolyn Plummer): cplummer@hhhs.ca, (705) 457-2527

HHHS Board Chair (David O'Brien): dobrien@hhhs.ca, hhhsboardchair@hhhs.ca, (705) 457-1392

Jane Adams, Vice Chair and Quality Committee Chair
Irene Odell, Corporation Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair
Jeff Gollob, Past Chair and Nominating Committee Chair
HHHS Board Directors
Scott Addison, Sharon Kaasalainen, Diana McNiven, Ted Parent, Don Pierson, Charlotte Snider

Ex-Officio Board Members
Carolyn Plummer, President & CEO, Dr. Norm Bottum, President of Medical Staff & Chief of Staff,
Paula Raggiunti, Interim VP Clinical Services/CNE

Bhutila Karpoche (Mental Health/Addictions Critic): bkarpoche-co@ndp.on.ca, (416) 763-5630

John Fraser (Liberal Health Critic): JFraser.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org, (416) 325-4670

Mike Schreiner (Green Health Critic): mschreiner@ola.org, (416) 325-4664

Paul Miller (Sports/Tourism): pmiller-qp@ndp.on.ca, (905) 545-0114

France Gélinas (Health): fgelinas-qp@ndp.on.ca, (705) 969-3621

Teresa Armstrong (Seniors): tarmstrong-qp@ndp.on.ca, (519) 668-1104

Christine Elliott (Ontario Minister of Health): christine.elliott@pc.ola.org, (905) 853-9889

Lisa MacLeod (Ontario Minister of Heritage): lisa.macleod@pc.ola.org, (613) 823-2116

Chris Glover, MPP Spadina-Fort York: cglover-qp@ndp.on.ca

Ontario Health Coalition: (416) 441-2502

Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Ontario: ontario.cmha.ca, (416) 977-5580

Ontario Society of Senior Citizens Organizations (OSSCO): ossco.org, (416) 785-8570

ARCH Disability Law Centre: archdisabilitylaw.ca, (416) 482-8255

The Advocacy Centre for the Elderly (ACE): acelaw.ca, (416) 598-2656

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH): camh.ca, (416) 535-8501

Ontario Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility: 1-844-493-2997

Canadian Association for Retired Persons (CARP): carp.ca, (416) 363-8748

Canadian Constitution Foundation: theccf.ca, (416) 902-8281

Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms: jccf.ca, (403) 669-5900

Disability Rights Advocacy Centre: drac.ca, (416) 967-7412

Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) ccd@ccdonline.ca

Canadian Medical Association: 613-731-8610

**Work with local elected officials to leave no stone unturned.**Algonquin Highlands: algonquinhighlands.ca/council

Dysart et al: dysartetal.ca/township-council

Highlands East: highlandseast.ca/en/government/council.asp

Minden Hills: mindenhills.ca/council