**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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Irene Odell, Corporation Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair  
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Ex-Officio Board Members  
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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