March 5, 2020 | Rural Health Matters
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Mobilizing Action to Save Our Hospital

Following last week's community meeting at Convocation Hall, formation of an Interim Steering Committee is well under way. A first meeting took place on Sunday, March 1 at Town Hall. Megan Mitton led the initiative, but handed over the reins to co-chairs Mayor John Higham and Fort Folly First Nation Chief Rebecca Knockwood.

Two prime objectives were defined:
1. Kill the proposed plan to ensure it's really cancelled, not just postponed.

2. Demand a new process to ensure community engagement.

First results from the public survey for volunteers were shared. Based on this information, the following key steps taken.

1. Request to Town Council to approve a **non-confidence motion** calling for resignation of the Minister of Health and the CEOs of Vitalité and Horizon Health. This motion was passed at a special Council meeting March 2 and forwarded by. Mayor Higham to Premier Higgs on March 3. You can read the full letter here.

2. Establish a **Communications working group** to build the case against the current plan and in favour of a new process. This group will also inform the public of progress going forward. Members are volunteers who indicated on the survey that they had communications experience/interest. A first meeting was held March 4 and this newsletter is the first of many steps being discussed.

3. Establish a **Research working group** to compile a solid, fact-based argument to refute the current plan. Key research topics were identified at the meeting, and a group is being mobilized for this task, drawn from people who indicated interest/expertise in data research and analysis.

As the Interim Steering Group takes shape, a list of its members will be published to permit direct communication.

Meanwhile, stay tuned for more updates coming very soon.