

March 9, 2020 | **Rural Health Matters**

*Tune in here for frequent updates on how our community is defending our hospital and healthcare system.*

## **Small Towns Team Up to Defend Local Hospitals**

Sackville is far from alone when it comes to fighting to defend quality healthcare. Mayor John Higham has been having weekly calls with the mayors of the other affected municipalities. Their purpose is to coordinate municipal demands for genuine engagement in the development of healthcare policies that work for citizens in small towns and rural areas.

The most recent conference call took place on Tuesday, March 3. At that time, the following information was shared.

1. At a meeting in Perth-Andover, the Premier repeated his intention to consult on hospital policy with representatives of each of the six communities. He will also hold a health forum in June. The mayors will seek a role in designing that event to emphasize its focus on rural and small-town needs.
2. Chief Rebecca Knockwood of the Fort Folly First Nation will confer with the Chiefs of the four other First Nations affected by this issue. They too will seek an active role in the Summit.
3. In Sussex includes an on-line petition in defense of the Sussex Hospital has more than 12,000 signatures.
4. On March 10, the six mayors will attend the announcement of the provincial budget. This will underline their determination to have a voice all matters bearing on rural healthcare.
5. On March 14 the Canadian Union of Public Employees will hold a Health Forum in Moncton. The affected communities will consult to decide who should represent them.
6. The Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick has joined the campaign. It is reaching out to smaller rural centres served by the six hospitals. Locally, the Sackville Local Service District has sent a letter of protest to the Premier.
7. Going forward, the six mayors plan a “super committee” that will include one community member from each area for the purpose of sharing information and coordinating activities.

# Government Silent on Mayor's Letter

On February 20, Mayor Higham sent a [letter](#) to Premier Higgs asking for details of the proposed plan and demanding changes to ensure community engagement. As of March 5 there has been no response from the Higgs government.

**CONSIDERING RUNNING TO BE A MEMBER OF A REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY? FIND INFORMATION [HERE](#)**

**FRIENDS OF RURAL NB HOSPITALS. [JOIN THE CONVERSATION](#) ON FACEBOOK**

*Rural Health Matters* is Published by a Group of Engaged Citizens [CONTACT US](#)