



The Honorable Dorothy Shephard
HSBC Place
P. O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5H1

August 19, 2021

Re: Concerns about the reduced emergency room hours at the Sackville Memorial Hospital

Dear Ms. Shephard,

I am reaching out today on behalf of 2 200 students at Mount Allison University, expressing concern about the reduced emergency room hours at our local Sackville Memorial Hospital. I understand that other New Brunswick community are facing similar challenges, yet **Sackville being a university town means that our community has specific needs and a 24-hour, 7 days a week emergency room is critical.** Mount Allison is currently the *only* university in the Atlantic provinces not within 20 km of a major hospital.

Our students have been arriving on campus since Monday, August 9th. These students pursued their education in New Brunswick with the understanding that there would be a fully-operating emergency room in town - especially on weekends, when emergencies happen the most. Our varsity athletes are equally impacted - they are beginning to practice now, and their games are often in the evenings on weekends. Many of these students and athletes do not have access to a vehicle to get to Moncton, and *the expectation that they will need to find a way to get to get there* in the event of an emergency is **unfair and unacceptable.**

We see the Hard-to-Recruit Incentive Program and recognize that Horizon Health is working on recruitment efforts. However, there is more that needs to be done. Students and athletes, prospective students and their families, our senior citizens and our fellow community members will be at risk this September. We ask that funding and energy is directed towards bolstering recruitment efforts, communicating to our community what is being done to support our needs, or implementing a transportation support systems to see that students and residents can arrive safely in Moncton for non-emergency, but urgent medical needs. In the long-term, our nursing programs in New Brunswick need to be supported to ensure that nurses that study in New Brunswick have a reason to stay.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Hannah Ehler'.

Hannah Ehler

Vice President, External Affairs at the Mount Allison Students' Union