



Legal and Legislative Services

May 28, 2024

The Honourable Sylvia Jones,
Minister of Health
5th floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Sylvia.Jones@pc.ola.org

Honourable and Dear Madam:

Re: Continuation of Urgent Care Centre Operation in Fort Erie (& Port Colborne) and Request for Regional Support

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of May 27, 2024 passed the following resolution:

Whereas Niagara Health has received approval from the Provincial Government to build a new South Niagara Hospital in Niagara Falls that will provide a range of emergency and acute care services, and

Whereas the shortage of primary care physicians in Fort Erie results in over 7,000 residents being unattached (unrostered) to a family physician, and

Whereas the Fort Erie Urgent Care Centre at Niagara Health's Douglas Memorial site provides a primary care "safety net" for the community and serves as a first point of health care contact for both attached and unattached residents who cannot receive time-sensitive primary health care, and

Whereas the Provincial Government is attempting to reduce EMS offload delays and eliminate hallway medicine arising from low acuity patients who would be better served by primary care physicians or an Urgent Care Centre providing access to the primary care "safety net", and

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Mailing Address:

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie
1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie ON L2A 2S6

Office Hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone: (905) 871-1600 FAX: (905) 871-4022

Web-site: www.forterie.ca

Whereas the viability of the health care and hospital systems in Niagara are dependent on all residents having time-sensitive access to primary health care;

Now therefore be it resolved,

That: The Town of Fort Erie advocate to the Minister of Health and Niagara Health for a commitment to continue the operation of Urgent Care Centre at Douglas Memorial in Fort Erie following the opening of the South Niagara Hospital as the primary care safety net until a viable and sustainable alternative is in place in the community, and further

That: This resolution be sent to the Niagara Region and Niagara's local area municipalities for their support and endorsement.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter and if you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Peter Todd,
Manager, Legislative Services / Town Clerk

ptodd@forterie.ca

PT-dlk

c.c. Lynn Guerriero, President, Niagara Health Lynn.Guerriero@niagarahealth.on.ca
A. Norio, Clerk, Niagara Region Ann-Marie.Norio@niagararegion.ca
Local Area Municipalities