



RICK BYERS

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Jim Bagshaw
Board Chair
South Bruce Grey Health Centre
21 McGivern Street West
Walkerton, ON, N0G 2V0

Tina Shier
Board Chair
Hanover & District Hospital
90 - 7th Avenue
Hanover, ON, N4N 1N1

Dear Mr. Bagshaw and Ms. Shier:

Let me start by expressing my thanks to both your organizations - your medical staff, management teams, board members and volunteers for the hard work and dedication in delivering high quality healthcare services in your respective communities. This has certainly been a challenging time, through the pandemic and in the post-COVID 19 period, in the operation of the hospitals under your management. The staffing issues since the fall of 2019, especially at the Chesley and Durham facilities, have been particularly challenging, and this has also placed pressure on Hanover & District Hospital as your team has had to carry additional patient volumes. Many thanks to all for your commitment and hard work.

In response to staffing levels expected this summer, South Bruce Grey Health Centre announced on April 24th its intention to move the 10 in-patient beds out of the Durham facility, with five going to Walkerton and five going to Kincardine.

The reaction in the Durham community has been very significant since the announcement. I attended the event on May 7th at the Durham Community Centre, met with the members of the community who traveled to Queen's Park on May 15th, and attended the hospital walk on May 21st. At these events, I heard concerns about whether the relocation of in-patient beds would impact the type of care available to Durham residents, concerns over staffing issues that may result from these changes which could compromise the long-term viability of the new model, and questions about whether SBGHC's four hospital model presents specific challenges in the current healthcare staffing environment.

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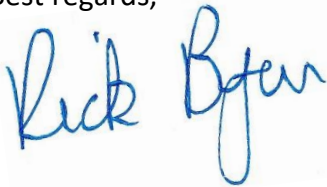
When South Bruce Grey Health Centre was established in 1998, Hanover & District Hospital chose to remain a single hospital unit and has operated very effectively throughout this period, including having no closures from the increased patient loads since 2019.

I believe the operating challenges over the last few years raises the question of whether an alternative configuration of hospitals under your management might be an issue to consider. While we recognize that hospitals are responsible for decisions pertaining to their daily operations and changes in service, there is value in your Boards to assessing this question. As MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, I respectfully encourage your Boards to undertake an expedited review to assess whether an alternative configuration could better address the operating challenges at the Durham facility. Such a review could enable both organizations to share HHR, operating and financial information in order to properly assess the issue, with the goal of providing the best possible healthcare to all the communities.

As part of the process, I would recommend South Bruce Grey Health Centre consider retaining the in-patient beds at the Durham facility while this review is underway.

I appreciate your consideration and again thank both your organizations for your commitment and hard work. I remain committed to working with you to achieve a path forward that recognizes the priorities of all communities involved.

Best regards,



Rick Byers
MPP, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
RCB/km

c.c. Municipality of West Grey Council
Grey County Council
Town of Hanover Council
Susan deRyk, Chief Regional Officer, Ontario Health West
Lisa Thompson, MPP, Huron-Bruce