

Wayne Boucher  
P.O. Box 204  
Annapolis Royal, NS  
B0S 1A0

Ms. Janet Knox  
CEO, Annapolis Valley Health  
15 Chipman Avenue  
Kentville NS B4N 3B7

November 3, 2010

Dear Janet:

On a personal note, may I begin by saying how much I appreciated your recent letters; such kindness will remain with me for some time.

The Friends of the Annapolis Community Health Centre would like to offer an initial response to the Ross Report. To begin, page 58 of the report recommends the implementation of a CARE structure for ACHC. The community remains concerned that changes from our organizational structure will jeopardize our in-patient and palliative care beds. Dr. Ross recommends that CARE be implemented in an evolutionary way and in a manner sensitive to community needs. This evolutionary process and the changes in EHS required to make a CARE structure viable for ACHC will take considerable time. When and if the CARE structure is applied to ACHC, everybody expects the schedule would be seven days a week.

There is no impediment for a return to 24/7 ER at the ACHC. That Dr. Simon Bonnington is completing his Nova Scotia ER certification provides all the justification required for an announcement that the ER will open 24/7, at the very least until the Ross recommendations are evaluated and implemented. The community had no difficulty adapting to the Thursday re-opening and a Tuesday re-opening would also be readily embraced. Above all, maintaining the scheduled closures at ACHC seems both unjust and inequitable: no other health centre in Nova Scotia has scheduled closures now, and no other health centre in Nova Scotia has scheduled closures when there are adequate doctors and staff to cover.

However, we understand that staff changes are necessary to complete the return to a 24/7 ER, and we suggest planning should begin now so that when Dr. Bonnington's certification is complete, 24/7 ER at ACHC can also be in place.

Our own approach is to seek the advisement of our community on 24/7 and the impact of the Ross Report at a public meeting at 7pm on Thursday November 18, at the King's Theatre in Annapolis Royal, and indeed we invite you to this meeting.

I would be delighted to have your early response.

Yours truly,

Wayne Boucher

Chair, Friends of ACHC

cc: Karen Smith  
Dr. Lynne Harrigan  
Tricia Cochrane  
David Logie  
Kevin McNamara  
The Honourable Maureen MacDonald

Site Manager, ACHC  
VP Medicine  
VP Health and Continuing Care  
Chair, AVH Board  
Deputy Minister of Health  
Minister of Health