



Annapolis Community Health Centre Auxiliary PO Box 384 Annapolis Royal Nova Scotia B0S 1A0

Hon. Maureen MacDonald, Minister of Health
Department of Health
4th Floor, Joseph Howe Building
1690 Hollis Street
PO Box 488
HALIFAX, NS B3J 2R8

Dear Minister MacDonald:

Subject: Annapolis Community Health Centre Auxiliary Comments on
The Ross Report 2010

The Annapolis Community Health Centre Auxiliary has had access to the Ross Report and understands it is an informative and measured document. Using the model of "The Patient Journey", the recommendations for improving health care within the Province of Nova Scotia are appreciated.

Many of our Auxiliary members have lived in this community for many years and therefore have participated in and been witness to the many changes in health care delivery in Annapolis Royal. At our meetings, we have many discussions concerning the future of our community health centre and the outcome of the Ross report.

In one defining statement on page viii of the Executive Summary of the Ross Report, it states "In smaller communities, Nova Scotians fear losing the defining element of their hospital -- their Emergency Department -- in some cases having already lost surgery, obstetrics, and other services." We can fully endorse that statement as in the 1990s there were significant changes at our facility from being a 23-bed general hospital to the current community health centre.

Discussions can pave the way to understanding and as one of Dr Ross's "Recommendations for Smaller Hospitals" is "communicate, communicate, communicate", we would consider this essential.

As it says on page xi of the Ross Report, "Each community is distinct, yet all are passionate about their health care. There is not one solution that fits all

communities. A community's energy and ideas must be the driving force as 'full service' community health centres are formed". We feel that has been the achievement of our own community health centre. We agree with the statement from the Annapolis West Health Foundation' letter to you "That all programmes stay including 24/7 until all promises, and new support services are in place and proven and there are no job losses." The following facilities and programmes should remain:-

- Emergency Department with Short Stay Patient Beds.
- Palliative Care Programme [funded by Annapolis West Health Foundation]
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Laboratory Services and Facilities
- Collaborative Practice [Annapolis Family Medical Group]
- EKG Department
- Occupational Therapy Services
- Physiotherapy Services
- Nutrition Services
- Diabetes Education
- Public Health
- Mental Health
- Well Women Clinic
- Addiction Services
- Maintenance and Food Services

As Auxiliary members we help focus our caring community not only to raise money for equipment for the community health centre but also to purchase equipment for Valley Regional Hospital [a pledge of \$20,000] and supporting a bursary programme with Annapolis Valley Health and Annapolis West Health Foundation [paying tuition for two students, \$2,000 each student each year].

Our Auxiliary members are ready for any discussions and participation and consultation in any meeting that may be planned and are committed to supporting the Annapolis Community Health Centre.

Pauline Lowen
President
Annapolis Community Health Centre Auxiliary

Copies to: Darrel Dexter, Premier, Province of Nova Scotia
Stephen McNeil, MLA, Leader of Liberal Party
Jamie Baillie, MLA, Leader of PC Party
Harold [Junior] Theriault, MLA, Digby Annapolis
Greg Kerr, MP, Southwest Nova
Philip Roberts, Mayor, Town of Annapolis Royal
Chair, AWHF

Peter Newton, Warden, County of Annapolis
Janet Knox, CEO, AVH
Dave Logie, Chair, AVH
Karen Smith, Site Manager, ACHC
Wayne Boucher, FACHC
K. McNamara, Deputy Minister, Health