

CORPORATE OFFICE/BUREAU DE DIRECTION

Centre Woodbridge Centre / 180, rue Woodbridge Street
Fredericton, NB E3B 4R3
Tel / Tél. : (506) 623-5500 Fax / Téléc : (506) 623-5533
www.HorizonNB.ca



Via email

June 14, 2021

Ms. Megan Mitton, MLA Memramcook- Tantramar
Office of the Green Party Caucus
Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 5H1

Dear Ms. Mitton,

Thank you for your letter of June 11, 2021 expressing concern regarding the service reductions at the Sackville Memorial Hospital. Decisions of this nature are never made lightly but are based on a full understanding of the staffing and physician resources required to deliver a safe and quality service. Horizon's leadership has worked closely with the local leaders of the Sackville Memorial Hospital, including their nursing and medical leaders to maintain service levels. Our staff have been incredibly flexible and accommodating by adjusting their schedules and working extra hours, often with very little notice to cover vacant shifts. On many occasions staff and physicians from The Moncton Hospital have also provided critical coverage.

Unfortunately, with 33% of the Emergency Department nursing positions vacant, we can no longer guarantee coverage. Staff were consulted prior to making this decision to ensure that any unexplored option could be identified. We have been open in sharing our challenges and we commit to providing regular updates on our staffing status. We will continue our efforts to recruit, but until we are able to fill these vacancies, the service reduction will continue. We will organize a meeting with community stakeholders in the coming weeks to explore opportunities for the community to support our recruitment efforts. We welcome any recommendations that may come from your constituents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen McGrath".

Karen McGrath,
President and CEO
Horizon Health Network

CC: David Coon, MLA, Fredericton South and Leader of the Green Party of NB
Sackville Mayor Shawn Mesheau and Town Council
Fort Folly Chief Rebecca Knockwood
Dorchester Mayor Debbie Wiggins-Colwell

Port Elgin Mayor Jason Stokes
Memramcook Mayor Maxime Bourgeois

