

District of Carleton North
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024 @ 7:00 pm
19 Station Road, Florenceville-Bristol, NB

Council: Mayor Andrew Harvey, Deputy Mayor Hargrove, Councillor Watson, Councillor Michael Stewart, Councillor Angel Connor, Councillor Scott Oakes, Councillor Laurel Bradstreet,

Staff: Amy McIntosh, Clerk

REGRETS: Student Councillor Sarah Lagarde, Student Sarah Harvey

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Andrew Harvey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION: To approve the January 23rd, 2024 Town Council Agenda as presented.
Moved by Councillor Bradstreet, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hargrove.

CARRIED. #005-2024

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: To ratify approval of the January 9th Town Council Minutes.
Moved by Councillor Connor, seconded by Councillor Watson.

CARRIED. #006-2024

5. PRESENTATIONS:

Physician Recruitment: Dr. Stuart Lockhart & Maily Lockhart

Dr. Stuart Lockhart's presentation to council is as follows:

Thank you, Mayor, and Council for inviting me here today. I am here to talk about access to primary care in Carleton North. There will be two asks of you here today, but first I would like to provide some background about the challenges and solutions for primary care here in the community.

This time last year an article was published by Dr Rick Glazier in the journal *Canadian Family Physician*. It outlined that there were approximately 5 million Canadians without a family doctor, but it painted a darker picture of what lay ahead. A rapidly aging population, population growth due in part to increasing immigration, as well as a large cohort of aging providers, will put additional strain on primary health care resources across the country. The article concluded

that if we do nothing, in the next five years there will be approximately 10 million Canadians without a family doctor.

To understand this more the authors examined the practice patterns of family doctors graduating from residency and found more and more graduates tending toward anything but community-based primary care; including emergency rooms or hospitals where they are **without** overhead payments, afterhours paperwork, or the necessity of running a small business but **with** well-resourced and supporting teams.

Why is this important?

In two weeks' time, we will be a community of 10,000 people with two full-time practicing family physicians. Furthermore, there are family medicine practices up and down the valley that have or are planned to close in the next year and others likely to follow in the years ahead.

Our concern is that we are poorly positioned in this Province to compete in the physician marketplace for physicians who may be interested in providing community-based, primary care.

So, we need to take a different approach.

Gone are the days of family physicians alone being able to meet the high demand for primary care services. There simply aren't enough of us and will probably never be. The Patient Medical Home model as advocated for by the College of Family Physicians of Canada proposes a physician-led but team-based, interprofessional model of primary care with all team-members practicing to the limits of their scope, to work-together to provide coordinated, comprehensive primary care. This is the team approach.

There are **no** other primary care models in this province that are meeting expectations. Significant recent Provincial investments in contracted virtual or temporary care solutions (such as eVisit or HealthLink) while useful at times are **NOT** a substitute for longitudinal, community-based primary care delivered by professionals who live and work in the community. Fragmented and impersonal

care offered by such solutions cause a diffusion of responsibility for patient care, and often end up causing subsequent patient visits and additional healthcare expenditures.

Provincial investment in teams and full-service clinics employing this model would serve to improve patient care through interprofessional collaboration but also recruitment of physicians to environments with clinical, operational, and overhead support – as our hospital-based colleagues currently enjoy.

CNMC is well positioned to host such a team and model of care. I want to take a moment to outline some accomplishments to date and **how** the clinic is prepared. In February a modern, paperless primary care clinic was opened with one physician, one staff, and a part-time diabetes educator soon joined. As a single unified clinic, physicians are offered a common set of valued-added

operational support services including EMR, staffing, supplies etc so there is no burden of running a small business in addition to medical practice. We do not expect our teachers to set up schools, so the same should not be expected of our physicians and clinics. Online booking for patients, and a secure messaging portal to quickly communicate results or updates were recently launched and there is now a provider offering womens health services and a need-based, orphan patient care clinic. Evening health promotion programming events have been hosted and soon public health clinics for childhood immunization series and well-baby visits will take place. The clinic has also been successful in securing four additional physician billing numbers for the community in addition to the numbers already existing in the area.

We have worked extremely hard at this, and I would be most remiss if I did not mention all the contributions from the community. The developer for the construction of a nearly futuristic facility that is well suited for the delivery of a refreshed model of primary care, all the foundations and organizations that contributed funding for equipment and furnishings for the facility, as well as to the municipal council both past and present for lease-gap support.

This community has stepped up, and it is time that provincial authorities contribute to improving health care access in Carleton North.

The vision at Carleton North Medical Clinic has been and remains to provide accessible and responsive primary care to the Northern Carleton County area in a way that is sustainable and future driven.

So our first ask of council, is for a motion to support Carleton North Medical Clinic's recommendations to the Department of Health and Horizon Health for allocation of financial and health human resources to support increased patient access to primary care in the District of Carleton North.

On a separate topic, I would like to talk for a moment about recruitment. Recruitment for physicians in our area currently rests in the hands of the Provincial bodies, Department of Health and regional health authorities. While it may be obvious that recruitment responsibilities **should** be there, there are some concerns about a lack of awareness or knowledge about our community's needs. As such, to augment efforts by others, we are asking that the council be an engaged partner in the newly established Community Health Care Access Task Force for Carleton North. Rural communities are often underserved, so we need to make this community one that can compete for physicians who may be interested in practicing family medicine.

Thank you for your time. The asks that were presented are supported by local physicians, and I do want to acknowledge their presence here today.

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

None

7. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. River Valley Suicide Prevention Committee - Day In Yellow February 2nd

The District of Carleton North received an email from the Canadian Mental Health Association of New Brunswick on behalf of the River Valley Suicide Prevention committee (RVSPC) in regard to the Day in Yellow. This event will take place on Friday, February 2nd and the RVSPC is encouraging everyone to dress, wear and use yellow to bring the importance of suicide to light. They are all regional communities to join them in this important date as a kick off to Suicide Prevention month.

8. **POLICIES & BY-LAWS:**

None

9. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Western Valley Regional Service Commission (WVRSC) request for approval to proceed with order to comply.

WHEREAS, The Western Valley Regional Service Commission (WVRSC) has informed District of Carleton North council about the placement of three unauthorized dwellings on the property located at 8460 Route 105 in Riverbank, NB, identified by PID 10288926, owned by Mr. Conrad Bois and Ms. Monica Little;

BE IT RESOLVED that the District of Carleton North council authorizes Conor Tripp, Planning Director of Western Valley Regional Service Commission, to proceed pursuant to section 135 of the Community Planning Act for such orders as are deemed necessary to remove the unauthorized buildings and ensure compliance against the owners of the property located at 8460 Route 105 in Riverbank, NB, identified by PID 10288926,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mr. Andre Daigle of Droit Law Juris be appointed as counsel.

MOTION: To provide authorization for Conor Tripp, Planning Director of Western Valley Regional Service Commission, to proceed pursuant to section 135 of the Community Planning Act for such orders as are deemed necessary to remove the unauthorized buildings and ensure compliance against the owners of the property located at 8460 Route 105 in Riverbank, NB, identified by PID 10288926. Moved by Councillor Bradstreet, seconded by Councillor Oakes.

CARRIED. #007-2024

2. Health Care resolution

Provincial Primary Care Collaborative Clinic “Pilot Project”

District of Carleton North
January 23, 2024

Whereas,
after February 2, 2024 the District of Carleton North will only have 2 full-time primary care physicians, leading to a health care crisis in terms of accessibility and sustainability for the residents of the Carleton North area.

and whereas the Carleton North Medical Clinic (CNMC) opened its doors in February, 2023 and the CNMC is a leading example of collaboration between the municipal government, private sector and Dr. Stuart and Maily Lockhart in opening this sustainable model of collaborative primary health care in our community.

and whereas the Government of New Brunswick is advocating for a team-based approach to primary health care services with the establishment of collaborative health care clinics; where health care professionals work together to ensure patients see the right provider at the right time and in the right place.

Be it resolved that the Provincial Government through the Department of Health fully support and work in partnership with the District of Carleton North and the Carleton North Medical Clinic with

the creation of a Provincial Primary Care Collaborative Clinic “Pilot Project” that will recruit & retain more health care professionals to the Carleton North area.

- 1) Adopt the team-based Patient Medical Home model with the allocation of additional part-time regular health care professionals from Horizon Health to the CNMC.
- 2) Ensure that the CNMC have the primary responsibility in the physician recruitment process and that new doctors be prioritized by Horizon Health for the District of Carleton North.
- 3) That Department of health provide funding to hire one nurse practitioner to work at the CNMC.
- 4) That the Department of Health provide a 4-year recruitment and retention annual financial assistance program to assist health care professionals with reduced facility overhead financial costs.

Be it further resolved that the District of Carleton North send this resolution to the Provincial Minister of Health, the Hon. Bruce Fitch, upon adoption of this resolution.

MOTION: Moved by Deputy Mayor Hargrove, seconded by Councillor Watson.

CARRIED: #08-2024

3. Mailbox Break-ins

Deputy Mayor Hargrove raised the issue of the rise in mailbox break-ins. Recently she received a call from her Father noting that the mailboxes in the yard of his business were broken into. Deputy Mayor Hargrove felt it was important to reach out Mayor and Council to discuss this pressing issue. Councillor Connor, who works at Canda Post, advised that this issue has been ongoing for quite some time. Canda Post has offered some recommendations to help with this issue; switch to direct deposit for any payments that are coming from the government, have your parcels delivered directly to the post office. Deputy Mayor Hargrove noted that these suggestions are just a band-aid approach, and something needs to be done. When these break-ins happen, the boxes need to be repaired and/or replaced and this can take some time. The RCMP were informed of the break-in in Greenfield and advised that without video surveillance, it wasn't worth their time to investigate in person, however, they are looking into these issues. Unfortunately, when these break-ins happen, people's identity's have been stolen with information that has been taken. This can create great hardship for the individuals impacted. Council has requested that the RCMP attend our next council meeting to discuss these issues and advise what is being done to prevent this from happening in the future. Council will also be sending a letter to Canada Post regarding this issue.

10. COUNCIL STATEMENTS / INQUIRIES

Councillor Michael Stewart:

Councillor Stewart attended his grandkids basketball and hockey games and will be moving into his new house next weekend.

Councillor Scott Oakes:

Councillor Oakes attended a provincial services community meeting with Maily Lockhart to discuss the pilot project, stopped by the NCRC, attended Upper Kent Rec Center supper and had a visit with his youngest son.

Councillor Angel Connor:

Councillor Connor did some planning with Juniper Rec on their activities for the year.

Councillor Laurel Bradstreet:

Councillor Bradstreet attended the grand opening for Pure Therapy. He also wanted to acknowledge and personally thank Dr. Bruce Lockhart for the work that has been done in this area, along with Dr. Colin Lockhart.

Councillor Chala Watson

Councillor Watson attended the 3rd Annual Matthew Tweedie Memorial game on Wednesday, January 17th. This was a huge success, with a great match up between the CNHS Start and the Hartland Huskies. Over \$2000.00 was raised for the Matthew Tweedie Memorial Fund.

Deputy Mayor Karen Hargrove

Deputy Mayor Hargrove attended a library board meeting, they are actively discussing the 40th anniversary of the library in April with more details to come, attended a provincial services community meeting with Maily Lockhart to discuss the pilot project and attended the Pure Therapy grand opening.

Mayor Andrew Harvey:

Mayor Harvey attended some NCRC meetings and noted that he was pleased with the facility and the staff, attended a Solar Eclipse meeting, had some health care meetings, attended the U11 tournament and the U7 jamboree, attended the Pure Therapy opening. Strategic Planning sessions to start on Monday the 29th. Curl for Cancer to take place on February 2nd & 3rd.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.
Moved by Councillor Connor, seconded by Councillor Watson.

CARRIED. #009-2024

MAYOR

CLERK