

October 7, 2022

To: Municipality of Arran Elderslie Council  
Municipality of Brockton Council  
Municipality of Huron Kinloss Council  
Municipality of Kincardine Council  
Municipality of South Bruce Council  
Municipality of West Grey Council

From: The Friends of the Walkerton and Chesley Hospitals

Re: Governance of the South Bruce Grey Health Centre

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We are writing today to bring to your attention our grave concerns about the ongoing operations and continued viability of our local hospital corporation. We have seen continued deterioration of services and alarming reports that we interpret to indicate a total collapse is imminent.

Last week we learned that the Chief Nursing Executive has resigned after a brief tenure of 6 months. We also learned that 49 vacancies and 30 leaves of absence exist within the nursing compliment. Based on these numbers we believe approximately 40% of the nursing staff positions are unfilled. This week we learned Chesley Emergency Department will be fully closed for 8 weeks

It is well known that a nursing shortage exists province wide but at the same time draw to your attention that neither Hanover Hospital nor the seven hospital Grey Bruce Health Services system are experiencing the reduction of services we see at South Bruce Grey. We believe there must be unique challenges within our local Hospital Corporation that the other local corporations have avoided or are not encountering.

We have been repeatedly told that the accountability of the Hospital Corporation to our residents lies with the Board of Governors. We have meet multiple times with the Chair and Board representatives, CEO, and our local MPP's. We have been ensured that efforts are being made to fix the issues including a detailed Recruitment and Retention plan instituted at the beginning of the year. We have also brought forth concerns that the composition of the Hospital Board is not representative of the population served and that we believe the Board is not operating in Compliance with the Public Hospitals Act. To date, our concerns have been largely unanswered.

Although it is assumed that the current board is diligently attempting to address our situation to the best of their abilities, given our current status, their work has not resulted in positive outcomes and the

situation is getting worse. We believe a change is immediately necessary. Along with that change, enhanced accountability to residents the hospital corporation serves should be embedded.

The following chart outlines the population by municipality, the estimated catchment area of each municipality, a suggested composition of a new smaller board and the current board composition.

Municipality	Population	Catchment	Population Basis	% of total	Suggested Board	Current Board
Arran Elderslie	6,803	50%	3,402	9.7%	1	2
Brockton	9,461	85%	8,042	23.0%	2	1
Huron Kinloss	7,069	60%	4,241	12.1%	1	0
Kincardine	11,389	90%	10,250	29.3%	3	4
South Bruce	5,639	60%	3,383	9.7%	1	0
West Grey	12,518	45%	5,633	16.1%	1	3
Non-Resident						1
Total	52,879		34,951	100%	9	11

It is our position that it is time for a fresh approach to the Governance of the Hospital Corporation with a new board that is more representative of the population served and accountable to that population via appointment by the respective municipal councils. By reducing the board size, both recruitment and the agility of the board would be enhanced.

We ask for your careful but urgent consideration of this important issue. If you are supportive of our proposal, we ask you that you formalize your support by making it know to the local MPP's Lisa Thompson and Rick Byers, the Minister of Health Sylvia Jones and Susan deRyk, Chief Regional Officer, Ontario Health Central and West Regions.

We also welcome any and all other suggestions you may have to improve the situation. The loss of healthcare services in our area is unacceptable. We are quickly running out of time and must act quickly to protect our services. We would be happy to come forward as a delegation to your council if you wish.

Thank you.

Greg McLean  
 Darren Holm  
 Randy Purves  
 Sharon Musehl  
 Nathan Rhody