

Media Release

Town of Gander



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Gander pleased with Government's commitment to reinstate obstetric services in Gander

(Gander, NL – March 21, 2023)

The Town of Gander is pleased with the Provincial Government's commitment to reinstate obstetric services at James Paton Memorial Regional Health Centre (JPMRHC).

Minister of Health and Community Services, Tom Osborne, said in a recent interview, diversions to Grand Falls-Windsor will end as soon as enough staff are recruited and, going forward, obstetric services will be delivered from both hospital sites in Central.

The Town of Gander would like to thank Minister Osborne and the Provincial Government for prioritizing patient wellbeing and recognizing the geographical and demographic realities of Central Newfoundland. The Town would also like to extend appreciation to the individuals and community leaders who advocated loudly for this vital service to remain and to the many physicians who came forward and spoke up in the interest of patient safety.

The Town feels, while this is encouraging news, each day that passes before reinstatement of service represents another day of unacceptable risk. The Town of Gander is urging Central Health to place immediate priority on developing and implementing an interim and long-term plan to ensure the service is up and running in both locations as soon as possible.

"This move is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the community, including local officials, healthcare professionals, and advocacy groups, who have tirelessly campaigned for the restoration of this essential service. I commend Government for recognizing the importance of reinstating obstetric services at JPMRHC and urge Central Health to begin recruitment efforts as soon as possible. The Town of Gander looks forward to supporting Central Health and the new Provincial Health Authority in attracting and retaining qualified healthcare professionals and successfully restoring this service." – **Mayor Percy Farwell**

-30-

Media Contact:

Kayla White

Communications Officer

709-651-5909

kwhite@gandercanada.com