



**TOWN OF GANDER**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Health Accord NL**

*(Gander, NL – December 20, 2021)*

In November 2020, the Government of NL announced the establishment of the “Health Accord NL” Task Force. The Task Force is mandated to deliver a 10-Year Health Accord with short, medium, and long-term goals for a health care system that better meets the needs of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. The Accord will be developed in consultation with all stakeholders, prioritizing engagement with various groups – including Indigenous leaders and health care professionals.

The release of the Accord’s “Calls to Action” is scheduled for January 20, 2022, with the Implementation Plan to follow in February 2022.

To date, the Health Accord NL Task Force has been direct in their position that the current model of health care delivery in Central Newfoundland is not sustainable. They have challenged communities impacted by the services to participate in designing a system that eliminates duplication. We have been assured James Paton Regional Memorial Hospital (JPMRHC) will not close.

Council understands that changes to the health care system will impact the residents of the region. Consequently, Council has remained engaged throughout the consultation process and has formed a working group. This group is comprised of the Mayor, staff, and community champions that have decades of experience related to health care and service delivery.

Both Council and the working group have contributed to this process by:

- Participating in numerous town hall engagement sessions
- Presenting an objective in-depth quantitative analysis to support further investment in our community and region
- One-on-one discussions with co-chairs Sister Elizabeth Davis and Dr. Patrick Parfrey
- Discussions with Central Health senior leadership
- On-going communication with MHA, Dr. John Haggie

The Town of Gander remains firm that any changes must strategically capitalize on the strengths and investments in existing facilities. We believe that the two regional health centres, JPMRHC and the Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre, must be foundational elements to a re-imagined system. It must also effectively solve the challenges of recruiting and retaining health professionals as part of the solution.

Council’s messaging is clear and unambiguous - they will not support any recommendations that lead to an inequitable reduction of services from JPMRHC.

Please have your say by submitting feedback at [www.healthaccordnl.ca](http://www.healthaccordnl.ca).

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