



March 31, 2025

Warden and Northumberland County Councillors  
c/o County Clerk  
Northumberland County Headquarters  
555 Courthouse Road,  
Cobourg, ON  
K9A 5J6

Dear Warden and Councillors,

Thank you for your letter dated March 20, 2025. On behalf of the Boards of Directors of Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) and its Foundation, the General Medical Staff Association, the NHH Auxiliary, and the Patient and Family Advisory Council, we acknowledge receipt and seek further clarity on this matter.

Since 2022, Northumberland County has provided critical capital funding for both NHH and Campbellford Memorial Hospital (CMH), reflecting a shared commitment to healthcare excellence. This multi-year pledge was foundational in NHH's capital planning and service growth, ensuring essential investments aligned with community needs. The County's unexpected decision to discontinue this support is deeply concerning, both financially and in terms of our longstanding collaborative relationship.

We recognize the urgency of improving access to primary care and remain active partners in the Ontario Health Team's county-wide physician recruitment and retention efforts. However, reallocating previously committed capital funds to a pilot walk-in clinic—without prior discussion or transition planning—presents significant challenges. The decision to not only redirect \$125,000 as initially recommended but to fully withdraw \$375,000 in funding exacerbates these difficulties, potentially undermining patient care and hospital services.

The lack of prior discussion with NHH contradicts the County's stated commitment to collaboration, communication, transparency, and engagement. Had there been an opportunity for dialogue, alternative solutions—such as adjusting the funding timeline or exploring collaborative urgent care models—could have been considered to meet both the County's immediate objectives and long-term healthcare commitments.

The abrupt withdrawal of support, particularly in the final two years of the County's five-year agreement, creates a substantial funding gap. Given the impact, we strongly urge Council to

reconsider this decision. One potential path forward could be an adjusted payment schedule that accommodates the Walk-In Clinic funding while still fulfilling the County's original commitment, extending support into 2027 rather than ending it prematurely.

We respectfully request an opportunity to engage in dialogue to explore solutions that uphold our shared commitment to a strong, sustainable healthcare system. We welcome the chance to discuss a viable path forward and appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Cyndi Gilmer  
Chair, NHH Board of Directors



Gavin Ivory  
Chair, NHH Foundation Board of Directors



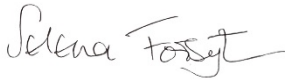
Susan Walsh  
NHH President and CEO



Rhonda Cunningham  
NHH Foundation CEO



Dr. Pavel (Paul Ketov)  
NHH, President of General Medical Staff



Selena Forsyth  
President, NHH Auxiliary



Bonnie McKee  
Chair, NHH Patient and Family Advisory Council

cc: Jennifer Moore, CPA, CMA  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Northumberland County