

July 24, 2025

Mayor Steele and Brian Boles, CAO  
The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne  
66 Charlotte Street  
Port Colborne, ON L3K 3C8

**RE: Partnering for the future of healthcare in South Niagara**

Dear Mayor Steele and CAO Boles,

Thank you for your recent correspondence outlining the City's position and feedback regarding the future of healthcare in Port Colborne. We appreciate your continued commitment to ensuring residents have access to the care they need. Your response letter will be shared with our Board of Directors at the September meeting.

Niagara Health understands the importance of accessible healthcare for the residents of Port Colborne, particularly in the area of increased primary care access. We have invested significant time and effort working alongside the City and community primary care physicians to identify solutions that could support continued primary care access in Port Colborne. While primary care falls outside the formal mandate of a hospital system, our leadership team has remained engaged and committed to exploring potential avenues—because we know how critical these services are to our community. That is also why we have continuously supported the City's public consultation process—including by participating directly in open houses and responding to residents' concerns and questions. We will continue to approach those conversations, including the presentation to your Health Committee, with honesty and transparency.

The intention of the timelines presented in our recent communication was to help Council appreciate the fast-approaching deadlines Niagara Health is facing to ensure South Niagara Hospital stays on track. These timelines are a product of us managing the commitments and timelines the Province has set out for us. The reality is that should municipalities decide not to partake in the local share, it is up to Niagara Health to come up with the difference and submit that plan to the Ministry of Health for approvals this fiscal year. As you will appreciate, the work required to determine how we would close that gap is not insignificant. By February 2028, Niagara Health is required to have its full funding in place to support the substantial completion of the new hospital. Much like a mortgage, Niagara Health is required to ensure it can meet the financial requirements necessary to receive the keys. We can set aside the Sept. 12th date but hope we can agree on the urgency to solve these questions so we can keep the South Niagara Hospital project moving forward, while also improving access to primary care for the residents of Port Colborne.



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As we move towards our three-site model, we remain committed to working with the City of Port Colborne and would be happy to explore alternative timelines that would be more feasible.

Sincerely,



Lynn Guerriero  
President and CEO



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**Transforming How we Work**