



Minister Michelle Thompson

Department of Health and Wellness
1894 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS, B3J 2R8

October 29, 2026

Dear Minister Thompson,

We are writing with serious concerns about the ongoing delays to health-care projects that were promised more than eight years ago in New Waterford and Glace Bay. This week, a doctor at New Waterford Consolidated Hospital warned that he might leave the community if construction on the long-promised health complex doesn't move forward. After 12 years of caring for patients in New Waterford, he says he's reaching his "breaking point."

This should be a wake-up call for the Houston government. These delays are taking a real toll on our communities, and now they risk costing them the health-care workers they depend on.

We have heard from people in New Waterford who are frustrated by the lack of answers about the next phase of this project. Patients and health-care workers are still relying on an aging facility where walls are peeling, water is coming in through the windows, and staff have raised concerns about poor air circulation. Major repairs are being put off because a new facility was promised — but eight years later, construction still hasn't begun and the community can't even get an update.

Nearby in Glace Bay, people have also been waiting more than eight years for long-promised hospital upgrades. People in these communities are understandably worried about whether this government intends to abandon these commitments altogether.

These problems aren't just in Cape Breton. In Sackville, patients have been waiting years for much-needed upgrades to the Cobequid Community Health Centre, and we hear from Nova Scotians across the province struggling to access health care when they need it.

After five years in government, Nova Scotians expect the Houston government to have a clear plan for hospitals and emergency care. This is why we tabled a bill during the recent fall session of the Legislature to create an action plan to improve access to reliable emergency care across the province. We are urging you, as Nova Scotia's Minister of Health, to move forward with this strategy.

We would also urge you to meet directly with health-care workers and community members, confirm whether these projects will still move forward, and provide clear timelines for construction. Cape Bretoners also deserve to know what immediate steps your government will take to address deteriorating hospital conditions and retain health-care workers while these communities continue to wait.

People in New Waterford, Glace Bay and Sackville have waited long enough. They deserve answers and immediate action before we risk losing more health-care workers.

Sincerely,

Kendra Coombes

MLA, Cape Breton Centre-Whitney Pier

Rod Wilson

Official Opposition Health Critic

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