NSNDP | CAUCUS

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

November 27, 2026

Dear Minister Thompson,

I am writing to once again demand answers and action for the people of New Waterford who have been waiting more than eight years for their new hospital.

People in my community are currently relying on an aging building with peeling paint, water coming in through the windows, and poor ventilation. Patients and health-care workers are frustrated and worried about the lack of information about the future of the New Waterford Community Health Hub, which was first announced in 2018.

Because of the continued silence from your department on this file, we were forced to turn to Freedom of Information to get answers. We were shocked when these documents revealed that Build Nova Scotia is currently paying PCL Construction $31,555 every month in management fees, even though no work is being done to get this facility up and running.

This means over $220,000 has been spent in the last seven months, and your government has only an empty parking lot to show for it. This money hasn't gotten New Waterford any closer to improved access to care, better workspaces for doctors and nurses to help with recruitment and retention, and modern equipment and technology to make the delivery of care easier.

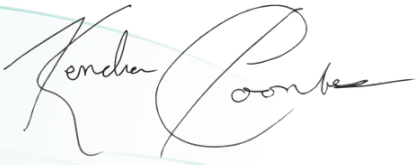
Meanwhile, it remains unclear if this project will even continue at all. Those same documents show your department admitting that the original plan has "doubled in cost and is no longer affordable at the time."

The need for better access to health care in Cape Breton has never been greater. According to research from your own department, residents in New Waterford, when compared to the provincial average, have an 81 per cent higher rate of COPD, a 36 per cent higher rate of diabetes, a 26 per cent higher rate of heart failure, and a 23 per cent higher rate of mental health and addiction disorders.

People in New Waterford have already been waiting for eight years and they still don't know if they're getting their long promised hospital. They deserve a more substantive response than the wait-and-see you've been providing for months.

It's past time for you to be honest with my community about this project and to finally keep your government's promise to improve access for the people who have been waiting for almost a decade.

Sincerely,



Kendra Coombes
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