



**STATEMENT FROM THE SAVE SOUTH MUSKOKA HOSPITAL COMMITTEE
ON MAHC'S SUBMISSION OF THE "MADE IN MUSKOKA" MODEL TO THE PROVINCE**

November 14, 2024

As Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC) prepares to submit its final stage 1.3 proposal to the province in the coming days, the Save South Muskoka Hospital Committee (SSMHC) and the South Muskoka community are, on the whole, remaining optimistic. As the planning process now moves to the province, we look forward to advocating for further adjustments as is needed to bring home an equitable hospital model to Muskoka that truly represents what is needed to address community healthcare needs, including care close to home in South Muskoka.

It is clear that MAHC has failed in its mandate for hospital redevelopment in South Muskoka: MAHC failed to facilitate proper, trustworthy and meaningful consultation; MAHC failed to create an equitable, two-site hospital model as had been previously promised; MAHC failed to incorporate the vital and necessary improvements as demanded by the community since January; and, importantly, MAHC has failed to generate true community support across its catchment. As such, the SSMHC does not place trust in MAHC to sufficiently modify the Made in Muskoka model to meet the needs or expectations of the community for equitable care across the region. **Elected leaders and others who support the Made in Muskoka model on a "regional basis" are willingly or recklessly ignoring the importance of care close to home as a cornerstone to achieving the best patient outcomes. "Regional support" is given at the peril of our communities and the residents of Gravenhurst, Muskoka Lakes and Bracebridge.**

While our efforts so far have been met with a positive improvement of 10 additional beds, all residents must remember that these beds were the result of community and political pressure and certainly not the efforts of MAHC. More must be done to advance change. **On this, the SSMHC identifies a proposal that we will raise with the province for a reallocation of ALC beds between the two hospital sites on an equal basis.** This approach offers options for future acute care bed allocation within the same site as the ALC beds are transferred from hospitals to more appropriate facilities. (As was proposed by Bracebridge Councillor Don Smith.)

As we continue our advocacy, we trust that the Ministry of Health, our political leaders, and those that truly understand what care is - our doctors and healthcare professionals - will prevail in finding a solution to the serious and legitimate concerns with the Made in Muskoka stage 1.3 proposal submitted by MAHC to the province.

The SSMHC remains firmly committed to continuing our advocacy at the province including providing the information, data and positions rooted by the decades of healthcare experience within our committee and advisors. It is evident that MAHC has strayed far from South Muskoka's best interests in its management of the hospital redevelopment. Significant community opposition demands that the hospital redevelopment process includes care close to home for the future of South Muskoka Hospital.