



SAVE SOUTH MUSKOKA HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

March 21, 2025

STATEMENT FROM THE SSMHC ON MAHC'S DECISION TO CLOSE THE SOUTH MUSKOKA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL OBSTETRICS (CHILD BIRTHING) UNIT

The Save South Muskoka Hospital Committee (SSMHC) is very concerned about the recent decision by the MAHC Board to close the Obstetrics (OB) unit at the South Muskoka Memorial Hospital.

MAHC's decision recklessly endangers the lives of mothers and babies, upsets access for local families and supports during challenging post-natal care, and undermines the sustainability of our local hospital as an acute care facility. Moreover, MAHC's decision conflicts with its previous commitment to ensure that South Muskoka is served by an OB unit into the future. MAHC again shows that it has no regard for community feedback, including that from the local doctors and the public that was presented clearly and loudly on this very issue last year.

This drastic change to close the OB unit is yet another indication that the public and local officials must assert accountability over MAHC's decisions. The SSMHC has no reason to trust that MAHC will reinstate the OB unit in South Muskoka on the proposed timeline and we would encourage our community representatives, elected officials and the public to demand that MAHC apply its "best efforts" for the prompt return of OB services in South Muskoka without delay in recognition of the importance of these vital lifesaving services.

Save South Muskoka Hospital Committee