



SAVE SOUTH MUSKOKA HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

April 22, 2026

Save South Muskoka Hospital Committee

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VIA EMAIL (tammy.tkachuk@mahc.ca)

Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare
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**Attention: David Uffelmann, Chair, Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC)
Marnie Dicker, Capital Redevelopment Chair, MAHC Board Member
Board of Directors, MAHC (copy)
Tammy Tkachuk, MAHC Board Liaison (copy)**

Dear Chair Uffelmann and Ms. Dicker:

**RE: Urgent Appeal to Address Significant Public Concerns with the “Made in Muskoka”
Redevelopment Plan**

Thank you for your letter dated April 16, 2026 in response to our April 9, 2026 correspondence.

With respect, your reply does not substantively address the specific concerns that we have raised. Referring generally to prior engagement processes and materials on the MAHC website does not respond to the detailed questions provided by our committee, many of which arise directly from information obtained through recent Freedom of Information requests and other updated project materials. In short, your letter does not address the accountability or clarity that the community reasonably expects at this stage of a project of this magnitude.

To be clear, our urgent appeal for transparency from MAHC is not only about a lack of access to information in general terms, but rather about clear inconsistencies between prior public representations and the information contained in MAHC’s planning documents. In particular, we are seeking direct and transparent clarification on matters, including:

- inconsistency between MAHC’s stated public commitments and how services are actually being allocated – particularly the loss of obstetrical services in South Muskoka, both presently and in the redevelopment Functional Program;
- addressing equality concerns through accommodations, such as a detailed and costed transportation plan, to ensure that the patients, families and caregivers of South Muskoka are not disproportionately burdened by the cost, risk and impact of reallocated healthcare outside of South Muskoka based on geographic location;
- providing evidence to support key planning decisions: Critical documents - including population data and unredacted reports from Stantec and GHD concerning 300 Pine Street - must be disclosed to restore public trust; and
- an explanation for how a scaled-down South Muskoka hospital - with limited capacity for complex or high-volume care, limited obstetrics support, no MRI, and no restorative or



alternate level of care beds - will attract and retain the doctors needed to serve the community. Without this clarity, the long-term viability of healthcare in South Muskoka remains in serious doubt.

We also note your reference to the provincially guided process. While we recognize the role of the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health, this does not diminish MAHC's responsibility to clearly explain and justify the positions it is advancing within that process - particularly where those positions have significant and potentially irreversible impacts on the future of healthcare in South Muskoka.

MAHC has identified "engagement" as a core corporate value in recent Strategic Plan documents and defines community engagement in its "Community Engagement Framework" as:

Community engagement is a process that enables two-way dialogue and interaction between MAHC and the community so that **community members can be informed** and involved in the planning and, when appropriate, the decision-making process for health care services and policies that affect their lives.ⁱ

In that context, a response that redirects community stakeholders such as our committee to general sources of information - without addressing the specific questions asked - falls drastically short of that commitment. As MAHC acknowledges in its policy documents, meaningful community engagement requires timely, transparent and inclusive engagement; by extension, the commitment to two-way dialogue also specifically requires a willingness from MAHC to engage legitimate community concerns, particularly where new information and inconsistencies have been identified.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that MAHC does engage in a direct manner with the community and our committee and provides a clear written response to the specific questions set out with our April 9 correspondence. Given the importance and time sensitivity of these matters, we would appreciate MAHC's detailed response by Friday, May 1, 2026.

We remain committed to constructive engagement and to ensuring that the final redevelopment plan reflects both sound clinical planning and the legitimate expectations of the South Muskoka community.

Yours truly,

Save South Muskoka Hospital Committee



Jason Cole, Chair

cc: SSMHC Executive; Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP (Hon. Graydon Smith); Bracebridge Mayor (Mayor Rick Maloney); Gravenhurst Mayor (Mayor Heidi Lorenz); District Chair, District Municipality of Muskoka (Chair Jeff Lehman)

ⁱ Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare, "Community Engagement Framework",
<https://www.mahc.ca/media/pprnipcb/mahccommunityengagementframeworksatmay2015.pdf>