

Public Meeting Presentation - Promises Versus Reality



What MAHC's Freedom of Information (FOI) Records Reveal About the Future of South Muskoka Healthcare



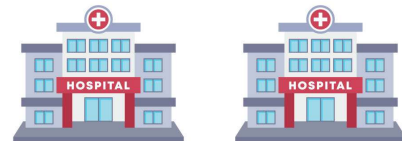
SAVE SOUTH MUSKOKA HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

Prepared by the Save South Muskoka Hospital Committee
May 23, 2026

Why We Are Here

The community was originally promised:

- Two modern, equitable acute care hospitals
- Accessible healthcare, close to home
- Transparent and responsible decision-making
- Designed for future growth
- Respect for South Muskoka taxpayers and patients



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Why We Are Here

“Sounding the Alarm” -

What Recently-Received Freedom of Information Materials Show:

- Significant gaps between MAHC’s commitments and planning documents
- Reduced service levels at South Muskoka
- Sustainability and growth challenges
- Major unresolved site and infrastructure issues
- Lack of transparency and credibility



ACCOUNTABILITY to the Public



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Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests

- Submitted to MAHC in May/June 2025
 - Stage 1.3 Functional Program (as MAHC submitted to Ministry of Health)
 - Stantec and other land investigation reports for 300 Pine Street
- FOI Legislation mandates the release of public records, subject to limited exemptions
- MAHC’s denied our requests and required a formal **mediation** through Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario

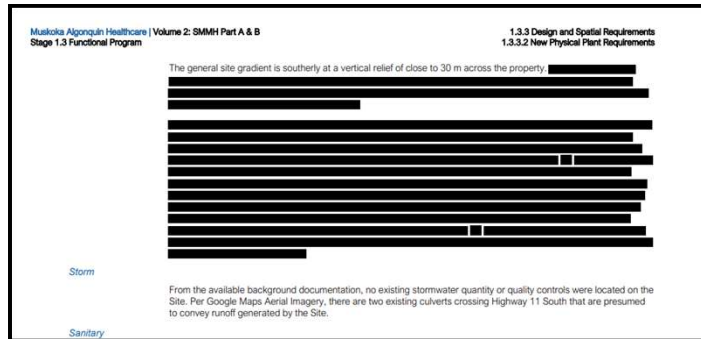


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Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests

- MAHC provided heavily redacted information
- MAHC denied a further request for release of documents and issue remains subject to a further **adjudication** process



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Questions Based on FOI Materials

- The Committee has sent a number of detailed questions to:
 - MAHC Chair and Board
 - MAHC “redevelopment subcommittee”
 - District Chair
 - Town of Bracebridge
 - Bracebridge Mayor/Council
 - Ministry of Health

MPP copied on all Questions

FOI Materials/Analysis
and Committee
Questions:
www.ssmh.ca/foi



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Promises Versus Reality

PROMISE	REALITY
<p>“MAHC is ensuring acute care for South Muskoka residents”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMMH Limited Focus: Surgery, diagnostics, ER and ambulatory care • Dependence on transportation assumptions <u>without a plan</u> • Reduced continuity of care and patient comfort • No obstetrical services • Unbalanced regional model • Smaller hospital than expected, including prior planning from 2015 onward



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Promises Versus Reality

PROMISE	REALITY
<p>“Obstetrical services will remain at the SMMH site, supporting families expecting babies in our community.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birthing/Nesting Room supported by ER department • No obstetrical services in South Muskoka • No planned cesarian births • Minimizes and contradicts input from local physicians – including key component of support through 2024



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OB - HAPPENING NOW:

- South Muskoka OB services remain “temporarily” closed for 14 months (despite original timeframe of 12 months)
- No reopening timeline has been publicly provided – and no written update since May 2025

Key Questions:

- Where is MAHC’s evidence and supports that two balanced acute care hospitals (with sharing of resources like today) is not feasible?
- Is South Muskoka really receiving a hospital that provides services for the future?



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The B

with community needs.

To address key concerns, we're excited to announce the following adjustments:

- **Expansion of Acute Care Beds at South Muskoka Memorial Hospital (SMMH) Site:** We've enhanced plans to include more acute care beds at the SMMH site, meeting the growing demand for these services.
- **Preservation of Obstetrical Service at SMMH Site:** Obstetrical services will remain at the SMMH site, supporting families expecting babies in our community.
- **Improved Patient Transportation Situation:** The change in the number of beds at the SMMH site will mean less patients will require transportation.

SOURCE:

“MAHC Announces Changes to Future Hospital Plans”

April 8, 2024

<https://madeinmuskokahealthcare.ca/news-updates/2024/04/08/mahc-announces-changes-to-future-hospital-plans/>



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MUSKOKA ALGONQUIN HEALTHCARE

PATIENTS AND VISITORS ▾ AREAS OF CARE ▾ GET INVOLVED ▾ CAREERS AND VOLUNTEERING ▾ ABOUT US ▾

Investment in Obstetrical Care Reinforces Commitment to Service in Two Sites

By Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare - Jul 30, 2024 General News

Deputation: 5:42

Obstetrics at MAHC

- We recognize the uncertainty around obstetrical services at the South Muskoka site and are actively exploring options to ensure high-quality, sustainable care.
- Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare will be providing an announcement in the next couple of weeks outlining this work.

There is still work ahead to build a better obstetrical program for Muskoka: Harrison

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Site Selection - 300 Pine Street

PROMISE	REALITY
<p>Pine Street site is the best option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • serviceable • expansion-capable • cost-effective • Access to transit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/3 of site is a gravel/sandy pit of 30m depth • Site servicing complexity • High cost risk soil remediation and infrastructure costs • Future expansion limitations • Traffic and accessibility concerns • “Clean” Landfill operation potential • 40 acres? Adjacent lands being acquired from Town and Catholic School Board

Community Concern - Are taxpayers being given the full picture regarding:

- Total development costs?
- Future expansion capability?

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Topographic Overview



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Population Growth and Aging Demographics

PROMISE	REALITY
<p>“The Plan Has Beds that Reflects Provincial Population Numbers”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not in the Plans: Significant majority of population is in South Muskoka • Permanent and seasonal population growth to 100,000 by 2051 (District Study, 2024) • Aging demographics (>provincial average) and increased healthcare demand • Current hospital capacity is routinely 110-140% • Local Physicians originally proposed 90 beds meets current demands



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Transportation Between Sites

PROMISE	REALITY
<p>“Patient Transfers Between Sites will be Limited - most visits to SSMH do not require admission”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No consideration for ability to handle acuity/severity of condition issues • Incorporates transportation to Huntsville as a constant – without any supporting details of a plan to fluid diagnosis and transfer • Ambulatory care is a limited resource • No regular public transit to support family and caregiver access • The model is dependant upon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rapid diagnosis and stabilization in South Muskoka; • availability of transport; • stable weather and road conditions; • available capacity at Huntsville site at all times, with no surge conditions (seasonal population, simultaneous emergencies) • Nearly 2/3 of all ambulatory offloads in MAHC catchment at South Muskoka site

Transparency Matters

Despite community concern, we had to use a Freedom of Information Process To Learn:

- Details of Stage 1.3 submission
- Site selection materials
- Planning assumptions
- Service implications



Why This Matters:

- A \$1 billion project that requires **major taxpayer and fundraising contributions** and will impact for the **next 50 years** must be:
 - Transparent
 - Accountable
 - Evidence-based
 - Open to meaningful public scrutiny



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Provincial Review of Stage 1.3 Continues

Important Facts

- MAHC's Stage 1.3 submission remains under provincial review
- Community Support a Metric for Province
- Local Physicians called for ongoing revisions during Provincial Review in October 2024
- **The continued review process may reflect the seriousness of unresolved concerns, including:**
 - Feasibility
 - Cost
 - Healthcare delivery impacts
 - Lack of Community Support in South Muskoka



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Provincial Review of Stage 1.3 Continues

This Means there is still time for:

- Questions
- Public engagement
- Improvements
- Transparency
- Accountability

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Save South Muskoka
Hospital Committee

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Minimum 60 Beds!



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What Are We Asking For

1. **Improved Model of Care & Bed Allocation**
 - More acute care beds in South Muskoka
 - Physician and specialist recruitment focus
 - Transition/ALC beds (64) should be shared
2. **Realistic Transportation Plan**
 - Includes mitigating the planned patient transfers out of South Muskoka at >6-day stays
3. **Site Selection Review for South Muskoka Site**
 - Public consultation has not occurred and is required for public support and legitimacy



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Your Voice Matters

Obtain MAHC FOI Materials

www.ssmh.ca/FOI

Sign up for the Committee "Lifeline" Newsletter

www.ssmh.ca/newsletter

Actions

- Lawn and window signs
- Speak and write to elected officials
- Share the information
- Attend public meetings
- Municipal Elections in October 2026
- Support transparent healthcare planning
- Advocate for equitable healthcare in South Muskoka



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Thank You For Your Support!

KEEP THE PROMISE

Two equitable acute care hospitals for Muskoka



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