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June 18th, 2018

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Town of Annapolis Royal
Town of Antigonish
Town of Berwick
Town of Bridgewater
Town of Clark's Harbour
Town of Digby
Town of Kentville
Town of Lockeport
Town of Lunenburg
District of Chester
District of Digby
District of West Hants

Town of Mahone Bay
Town of Middleton
Town of Mulgrave
Town of New Glasgow
Town of Oxford
Town of Pictou
Town of Port Hawkesbury
Town of Stellarton
Town of Stewiacke
District of Yarmouth
District of Clare
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County of Inverness
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County of Pictou
Region of Queens Municipality
County of Richmond
District of Shelburne
District of St. Mary's
County of Victoria
Town of Trenton
County of Colchester
Halifax Regional Municipality

Town of Truro
Town of Westville
Town of Windsor
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County of Cumberland
District of East Hants

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JUN 21 2018

Dear Municipal Units of Nova Scotia,

The Rural Nova Scotia Health Crisis Working Group took form at an open discussion of the current health crisis hosted by the Town of Shelburne on February 15th, 2018. Since that time municipal representatives from the South Shore and Sou'West Nova, along with representatives of community organizations and members of the public, have been meeting on a monthly basis to share updates on the ongoing health crisis, explore community-based solutions, and to advocate for changes that will resolve the health care crisis in our rural communities.

Our working group has heard from our communities, medical practitioners and local representatives concerning the ongoing doctors shortage, frequent ER closures, lack of long-term care spaces and other worrying strains on our health care system; all clear indications of the deepening health crisis in Nova Scotia.

We are united in our recognition of the crisis. We urge the Government of Nova Scotia to act quickly on our communities' petition to: Guarantee Access to Family Doctors, Decrease Wait Times, Ensure Access to Services Locally, Provide ER Service Available 24/7, and to Restore Local Decision Making.

To support this call we will be organizing a series of events over the next several months to highlight the extent of the crisis and its impacts on our communities.

If you are concerned about the deepening health crisis and would like to connect with the working group and join in the events we are organizing, please contact me at mayor@town.shelburne.ns.ca.

Sincerely,

Mayor Karen Mattatall, Town of Shelburne
Chair, Rural NS Health Crisis Working Group