

Commission de services  
régionaux de Kent



Kent Regional  
Service Commission

**Special Board of directors meeting  
Kent Regional Service Commission**

**February 13th, 2020  
6 :30pm  
Richibucto**

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Pierrette Robichaud welcomes everyone and calls the meeting to order at 6:41pm. She explains that this special meeting is to talk about the Stella-Maris-de-Kent Hospital. He wish is to leave here with a plan that will allow the citizens of Kent keep their services at the Stella-Maris-de-Kent Hospital.

## **2. ATTENDEES**

- Pierrette Robichaud, Chair of the KRSC and Mayor of the Town of Rogersville
- Randy Warman, Mayor of the Village of Rexton
- Danielle Dugas, Mayor of the Village of Saint-Louis-de-Kent
- Tina Beers, LSD of Harcourt
- Eugène Cormier, Deputy Mayor of the Village of Saint-Antoine
- Pierre LeBlanc, LSD of Grande-Digue
- Jean Hébert, Mayor of the Rural Community of Cocagne
- Claude LeBlanc, Vice-Chair of the KRSC/LDS of Wellington
- Roland Fougère, Mayor of the Town of Bouctouche
- Paul Lirette, LSD of Saint-Charles
- Docile Cormier, LSD of Carleton
- Kris Morey, LSD of Weldford
- Roger Doiron, Mayor of the Town of Richibucto
- Maurice Maillet, LSD of Sainte-Marie-de-Kent
- Roger Richard, LSD of Acadieville
- Jacques Cormier, LSD of Saint-Paul
- Jean-Charles Daigle, LSD of Pointe-Sapin
- Gisèle Fontaine, LSD of Saint-Louis

## **OTHERS**

- Paul Lang, Executive Director of the KRSC
- Francine Arseneault, Administrative Assistant of the KRSC
- Francine Babineau, Translator
- Kevin Arseneau, Kent-North MLA
- Benoit Bourque, Kent-South MLA
- Maxime Babineau, Sargent, RCMP
- Bill Collier, RCMP
- Aaron Stock, Chief-Elsipogtog
- Ann Marie Steel, Chief Bouctouche
- Marie-Claude Bordage, SMH doctor
- Josette Vautour, SMH retired doctor
- Joey Caissie, SMH Foundation
- Adélarde Cormier, SMH Foundation

### **3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

No conflict to report.

### **4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

#### 2020-010

It was moved by Roland Fougère, seconded by Roger Doiron, that the agenda be accepted as presented.  
Motion carried

### **5. STELLA-MARIS-DE-KENT HOSPITAL**

The President asks the people in the room to speak with respect.

At 10 a.m. Friday morning, there will be a conference call between the mayors of Grand-Sault, Caraquet, Sussex, Sackville, Perth Andover, Pierrette Robichaud, Roland Fougère and Roger Doiron.

Pierrette Robichaud explains that the meeting this evening is to decide how we are going to proceed and will the commission take the reins of the file for the people of Kent, or will we form a committee totally apart of the KRSC with various stakeholders who would sit on the committee? We have to get organized and be very well organized.

Roger Doiron tells us about the data on the sheet he distributed to the group. These are official figures that can be used to make an informed decision. He points out to the group the visit figures are to be looked at.

Several members gave their comments and expressed their opinions:

- Waits are already long in Moncton.
- Several people are upset because Moncton is far away.
- The 6 hospitals should unite and rally together.
- Putting the long-term patients in hospitals is not a solution. It takes up lots of beds.
- There must be other cuts that could be made in hospitals without closing the emergency at night.
- The closure will take a lot of our resources - ambulances, RCMP, firefighters, etc.
- If we want to develop Kent - attract new businesses and people - we cannot cut services.
- Ambulance NB was not consulted as Gilles Lanteigne said.
- No plan has been put in place to ensure a good transition on the way to Moncton.
- Gilles Lanteigne seems to be the source of the problem.
- We should form a coalition.
- They just want to turn the hospital into long-term facilities for the elderly.
- We have to focus and regroup.
- The government must prove that the closings will save money.
- We need to form a committee to represent us.
- We would therefore lose 10 hours of service per day.
- It is unacceptable to reduce the health system.
- It's a matter of life and not politics.
- We need to convince the public that the closings will not be profitable. They are the voters. We need concrete figures.

Dr Bourdage :

- Emergency doctors have never been consulted and are unanimously opposed to the closure.
- Statistics vary from day to day as it demonstrates when the patient registers. It's hard to get concrete numbers.
- The reasons for emergency closings do not apply to Sainte-Anne.
- The hospital is not in shortage of staff. There has never been a service disruption. Never needed to call Vitality for help.
- No impact study has been done to know the impact on the RCMP, ambulances, etc.
- The emergency chief at CHU Dumont is on our side.
- The acute patients will be transferred to Moncton and they will send us another patient who is waiting for a place in a nursing home.
- No flexibility to reassess the plan.

Dr Vautour (retired) :

- We don't have advanced paramedics as mentioned.
- The government does not present the reality. They're just crushing our health care system.
- There is already a shortage of paramedics in the province.
- Some patients are transferred directly to Moncton if they are under control (stable).

Pierrette Robichaud reads us a letter from the Rexton fire chief about the life of a firefighter. Here are some points that stood out:

- Witnessed on several occasions the emergency doctors, nurses, etc.
- Emergencies occur all day and night.
- Firefighters always have a "back-up plan".
- The ambulance is not an emergency room.
- Firefighters are trained in CPR and other stuff but are not paramedics.
- Firefighters will see a higher volume of calls and will have to respond.

Adélarde Cormier - Advisory board and HSM volunteer for 25 years.

- He has worked for 25 years to develop the hospital.
- HSM receives between 31,000 to 33,000 visits per year.
- Kent supports their hospital with every fundraiser.
- Kent's situation is not comparable to Caraquet, Bathurst. It is not a "one size fits all".

Benoit Bourque, Kent-South MLA:

- This plan has been in existence since 2012 and this government has decided to implement it.
- The other governments did not want to put it into action.
- We need health reform in NB.

## 2020-011

It was moved by Maurice Maillet, seconded by Eugène Cormier, that the KRSC opposes the closure of the emergency service at HSM between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. The KRSC insists on maintaining the 24/7 emergency service and wants to form a committee and have initiatives.

Motion carried

A recruitment process is done to find members to sit on the committee.

2020-012

It was moved by Gisèle Fontaine, seconded by Danielle Dugas, that the members of the committee be: Pierrette Robichaud, Randy Warman, Aaron Stock, Roger Doiron, Roland Fougère, Joey Caissie, Marie-Claude Bourdage, Maxime Babineau, Kris Morey and Ann Marie Steele.

Motion carried

The first meeting of the committee will take place this evening after the board meeting. All information will be sent to members of the Board.

Paul Lang announces to the group that a press release will be sent tomorrow, February 14th, 2020.

Pierrette Robichaud informs the group that since the hospital is a priority project at the moment, the Executive Director's other projects will be put aside for the moment.

**6. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

2020-013

It was moved by Gisèle Fontaine that the closure of the meeting is at 8:21pm.

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PRESIDENT

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CLERK