

Commission de services  
régionaux de Kent



Kent Regional  
Service Commission

**Special meeting of the Board of Directors  
Kent Regional Service Commission**

**February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024  
1 :00 pm  
Beaurivage**

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Aldéo Saulnier opens the meeting at 1:03 pm and welcomes everyone.

## **2. ATTENDANCE**

- Aldéo Saulnier, Chairman of the KRSC and Mayor of the Town of Grand-Bouctouche
- Arnold Vautour, Mayor of the Town of Beaurivage
- Jean Hébert, Mayor of the Rural Community of Beausoleil
- Jean-Charles Daigle, President of the Kent Rural District
- Jimmy Bourque, Mayor of the Village of Nouvelle-Arcadie
- Marc Babineau, Deputy Mayor of the Town of Champdoré
- Tina Beers, Vice-Chair of the KRSC and Mayor of the Municipality of Five-Rivers

## **ABSENCE**

- Jean-Pierre Richard, Mayor of the Town of Champdoré

## **OTHERS**

- Paul Lang, CEO – KRSC
- Isabelle Godin, Assistant Executive Director - KRSC
- Francine Arsenault, Administrative Assistant - KRSC (Grand-Bouctouche)
- Marie-Paul Robichaud, Economic Development and Tourism Development – KRSC
- Micheline Léger, Regional Development Coordinator - KRSC
- Francine Babineau, Translator
- Daniel Goguen, Manager - Environment and Local Government/Kent Rural District
- Honorable Benoit Bourque, MLA Kent-South (Zoom)
- Honorable Kevin Arseneau, MLA Kent-North (Zoom)
- Members of the public

## **3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

Nothing to declare.

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

2024-001

It is moved by Jimmy Bourque, seconded by Arnold Vautour, that the agenda be adopted as presented.

Motion carried

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

Aldéo Saulnier provides some background on the reason for this special meeting. With meetings scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> with Vitalité's Vice-Presidents and deputy CEO, he would like to hear the opinions and concerns of Board members so he knows what to focus on at these meetings. Here's what came out:

- ❖ Not acceptable to transform acute care beds into long-term care or palliative care beds at Stella-Marie-de-Kent Hospital (SMKH).

- ❖ Lack of communication and transparency on the part of Vitalité, which made a decision without consulting the KRSC or its partners.
- ❖ Should have had a dialogue to find solutions.
- ❖ A strategy/vision should have been put in place.
- ❖ Action must be taken immediately before SMKH becomes a nursing home.
- ❖ This problem affects all Kent communities, as well as the First Nations of Elsipogtog, Indian Island and Buctouche.
- ❖ Working conditions are problematic and the lack of support from the Georges L. Dumont Hospital and Vitalité have led to a decline in general practitioners at SMKH from 11 to 3 in the last 4-5 years.
- ❖ Need incentives to attract doctors and medical staff to SMKH.
- ❖ This temporary problem could be long-lasting and could result in the loss of acute-care healthcare professionals.
- ❖ Statistics show that SMKH is essential to the Kent population.
- ❖ Built in 1966, SMKH needs major improvements to its infrastructure, which does not meet today's standards. For example, the bathrooms in patient rooms cannot accommodate a wheelchair.
- ❖ Transfers from one hospital to another will put a strain on other services such as Ambulance NB.
- ❖ Mr. Adélarde Cormier invites members to visit the SMKH, with a hospital official, to see and understand the state of the infrastructure.
- ❖ We need to mobilize, denounce and demonstrate sooner rather than later.

#### 2024-002

It is moved by Jimmy Bourque, seconded by Arnold Vautour, that the Kent Regional Service Commission continue its mobilization efforts to ensure that services at the Stella-Maris-de-Kent Hospital are maintained and improved.

Motion carried

### **6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- ❖ A member of the public suggests that we ask for what we want and not talk about what we've lost.
- ❖ Mario Tardif of l'Acadie Nouvelle asks for clarification. *Aldéo Saulnier and Paul Lang provide clarifications.*

### **7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

#### 2024-003

It is moved by Tina Beers, that the adjournment be held at 2:15 pm.

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CHAIR

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Executive Director/Clerk