

News Release

"Council Announces the Formation of the Special Committee on Healthcare"

March 28, 2023
For Immediate Release

Today, Bryan King, Mayor of the Town of Bishop's Falls, announced the formation of Council's Special Committee on Healthcare.

Mayor King stated, *"Earlier this year, Council initiated a public process to engage interested community members to sit on a Special Committee to help lead the Town's efforts to restore a family practice, or a comparable health care delivery model, in Bishop's Falls. I am very pleased to report that four exceptional people stepped forward and, together with Council's representatives, have taken on this important task."*

The Special Committee on Healthcare, which held its first meeting on March 7, 2023, is comprised of the following individuals:

- Judy Budgell
- David Snook
- Lynette McDonald
- Dr. Gurmit Minhas
- Mayor Bryan King
- Deputy Mayor Krista Toms
- Councillor Barry Saunders

Bishop's Falls lost its last and only family doctor in April 2022, leaving approximately 1,000 – 1,300 patients without this critical resource in the province's healthcare system. The Bishop's Falls Town Council discussed this situation during the 2023-2027 strategic planning process and established "Family Doctor/Health Care" as a quintessential external priority. The associated objective focuses on physician recruitment and ensuring the appropriate medical provider is in the appropriate place.

"The Committee's primary mandate, which arises from our 2023-2027 strategic plan, is to develop and lead a strategic recruitment initiative, with linkages to the Health Accord NL, to restore a family practice or comparable health care delivery model in Bishop's Falls. Over the coming weeks and months, we will engage physicians and other healthcare professionals to discuss constraints and opportunities regarding a Bishop's Falls family practice. We will also raise concerns and opportunities with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador," added Mayor King.

Since its formation, the Committee has held two meetings and is currently focused on gathering data/information relevant to its mandate.

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