

Almaguin Highlands Health Centre

Information and Public Questionnaire

**We are all aware of the drastic reduction of needed health care services in our area. These services that have been withdrawn are seriously affecting the health and welfare of our residents. At present x-ray, physiotherapy and blood services are still available at the Burk's Falls Health Centre. These services too, are in danger of being withdrawn or the hours of operation dramatically reduced, if they are not more fully utilized. If this happens we will need to travel to Huntsville, North Bay or Parry Sound to receive these services.**

Over the past year and a half various organizations and individuals have been attempting to return our hospital beds and the Urgent Care facility to the Burk's Falls Health Centre. Elected representatives from local councils and lake associations have been meeting with various provincial government officials to try and bring this about. It has become obvious that we will have to present the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) with a formal business plan to achieve our goals. We believe this plan will have to be locally sponsored and produced, and unique to the province, in order to give us the best chance of opening a new Community Health Centre which will address the local needs of both permanent and seasonal residents.

While there is a long way to go and success is not guaranteed, we believe the residents of this area deserve our best efforts. Towards that end we will be producing regular information newsletters like this one, in order to keep everyone informed and to get your needed input. We will be approaching our local doctors, other health care providers and the public in an attempt to get as wide a range of suggestions as possible to identify needed health services. We will be hosting public meetings throughout the Highlands over the next six months as we put together this plan to forward to the NE LHIN. If anyone has views which they wish to send to us before or during the time public meetings are being held, they should be sent or taken in writing to the office of any local municipality or sent by email to our website, [feedback@almaguin-health.org](mailto:feedback@almaguin-health.org). It would be helpful if you could indicate on any correspondence which municipality you live in and whether you reside in a rural area or a Village.

Please comment on the following and if you wish, add any other ideas you may have.

How could health care in this area be improved?

What effect, if any has the closing of the local health centre had on you or your family?

During the past two years, how often has a family member needed to visit an Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Room?

What other health-related services (aside from Urgent Care) would you like to see be a part of a Community Health Centre?

In addition to public sessions and newsletter updates, we will soon be providing information through our web site, [www.almaguin-health.org](http://www.almaguin-health.org).