



Table Locale de Concertation des Aînés de la
MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent (Basse Côte-Nord)
Local Concertation Table for Seniors of the
MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent (Lower North Shore)

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

REDUCTION IN SERVICES AT THE CLSC'S ON THE LOWER NORTH SHORE

St. Paul's River, Québec August 25, 2021 – The following partners: (Kimberly Buffitt, User's Committee and Chair of the Advisory Committee; Randy Jones, MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent; Roderick Fequet, Municipalité de Bonne-Esperance; Eileen Schofield, Coasters Association; Ghislaine Nadeau-Monger, Local Concertation Table for Seniors of the MRC du Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent; Philip Joycey, Centre de Services Scolaire du Littoral; and Jessica Purcell, CPE Mer et Mousse) met yesterday to discuss and voice their concerns surrounding the ongoing reduction in services at CLSC's in various communities and most recently, the abolition of on-call services at the CLSC in St. Paul's River.

Although the CISSS de la Côte-Nord has indicated that these measures are temporary, they have been ongoing since early 2020 with a single nurse providing services to the community of Tête-a-la-Baleine. The situation has further deteriorated with the announcement earlier this month of reductions in services for the CLSC's of Chevery, La Tabatière and Saint-Augustin. The most recent press release from the CISSS de la Côte-Nord, issued on August 23 informs the population that the at the CLSC of St. Paul's River will have not only a reduction in services BUT will also be subject to the complete abolition of on-call services every day from 4:30 pm to 8:30 am the next morning and from 4:30 pm Friday evening to 8:30 am Monday morning. Users are being advised to call 911 or info-santé at 811 and for any non-urgent health problem, users can either go to Blanc Sablon or they can wait for a return to normal situation.

The partners agree that the reduced services can no longer continue as they put the health of our population at jeopardy and has become a public safety risk. The tremendous physical and mental strain on the nurses working in these CLSC's is unacceptable and unrealistic (24 hours a day with on-call). Clinics only being opened for emergency care is intolerable and having no on-call services at the CLSC of St. Paul's River leaves the population in extreme peril should a severe incident occur. This situation is critical. With the well-being of our population in mind, we will work together to ensure a solution is found.

We will continue to keep you informed of the evolution of the file.

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Source:

Kimberly Buffitt, President

Users Committee for the Lower North Shore and Chair of the Advisory Committee