



## MEDIA RELEASE

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie

### **MAYORS OF SOUTH NIAGARA AGREE ON PREFERRED LOCATIONS FOR NEW HOSPITAL**

FORT ERIE, June 15, 2012 – More good news for the Town of Fort Erie and five other southern tier municipalities was announced by Regional Chair, Gary Burroughs, at the Regional Council meeting last evening. Tasked by Dr. Kevin Smith, the Niagara Health System (NHS) Supervisor, to recommend a unanimous decision on a location or locations for consideration by Health Minister Deb Matthews of a new southern Niagara hospital, the group of six Mayors and the Chair have reached a unanimous decision on two locations.

Based on objective, ongoing data and analysis mapping related to population density, EMS call volumes, drive times, municipal infrastructure and a number of other factors, two geographic areas were short-listed for the proposed development of a south Niagara hospital complex, conditional that Urgent Care centres continue to operate in Port Colborne and Fort Erie. The two locations agreed to are described as:

- 1) the QEW and Lyons Creek area; and
- 2) the East Main Street and Highway 140 area.

The recommendation by the Mayors of Fort Erie, Pelham, Port Colborne, Niagara Falls, Welland, Wainfleet and the Regional Chair will now be subject to consideration by the NHS, the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), the Minister of Health and the provincial government. The Town has also been advised that the NHS, LHIN and Ministry of Health will be seeking input from residents of south Niagara for a final decision with respect to the preferred new hospital location.

Mayor Doug Martin noted, "This is a positive step moving forward towards a much needed state-of-the-art facility to service the residents of Fort Erie. The unanimous decision is also a culmination of fifteen months of continued interaction between the Town and the NHS to ensure that our community has access to the best health care available".

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#### **For more information:**

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Town of Fort Erie

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