



*THE HOSPICE HOUSE FOR NORTH HASTINGS*  
*"caring when there is no curing"*

September 29, 2010

The Honourable Deb Matthews  
Ministry of Health & Long Term Care  
Hepburn Block 10<sup>th</sup> floor  
80 Grosvenor St.  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2C4

Dear Madam Minister,

The Board of Hospice North Hastings, a Healthcare Service Provider (HSP) located in the South East Local Health Integration Network (SELHIN) is officially giving notice of our intention to not sign the next MSAA which is scheduled for April 1, 2011. We will fulfill our present agreement to provide palliative services to the community of North Hastings until it runs out on March 31, 2011

Our small, rural, non profit organization, Hospice North Hastings, received 20% of its budget from the SELHIN during this past year. It is the board's assertion that the administrative demands and costs associated with the MSAA is having a direct affect on the services we are able to provide to our community. After consultation with our community and after having worked with the SELHIN representative over the past few months to seek solutions to this concern, we do not see any other alternative but withdrawing.

Hospice North Hastings will continue to provide our non LHIN funded programs which include our residential hospice (the only residential hospice beds in the SELHIN) and our medical equipment loan cupboard and as of April 1, 2011, the previously partially funded LHIN programs, visiting volunteer and bereavement, will become 100% community funded.

As well, we request that the Ministry of Health and the SELHIN consider keeping the partial funding dollars (\$52,168) in the SELHIN Hospice budget in order to aid the other three rural hospices that are struggling to provide programs under their current funding arrangement.

This has been a difficult decision however it is our opinion that the imposition of onerous administrative costs and processes associated with such a small allocation has in fact lessened our effectiveness as a rural care provider. In this regard, Hospice North Hastings would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for their support over the past 13 years

Yours truly,

Bruce Walker  
Chairman of the Board  
Hospice North Hastings

cc: Georgina Thompson Board Chair SELHIN  
Paul Huras CEO SELHIN  
Judy Switson, Manager, North East Unit LHIN Liaison Branch  
Cory Russell, Data Analyst & Integration Consultant SELHIN

*Hon. Leona Dombrowsky, MPP Hastings/Prince Edward*  
*Hon. Daryl Kramp, MP Hastings/Prince Edward*  
*Margaret George, Director, SEO Palliative & End of Life Care Network*  
*Rick Firth, Executive Director, Hospice Association of Ontario*  
*Peggy Sundstrum, Executive Director, Hospice Lennox & Addington*  
*Doris Bush, Executive Director, Heart of Hastings Hospice*  
*Nancy Parks, Executive Director, Hospice Prince Edward*  
*Muriel Post, Palliative Case Manager, SECCAC*