

Vision Statement for Small, Rural and Northern Hospitals

We envision a future where rural, northern and remote residents have access to healthcare systems close to home and where small, rural and northern (SRN) hospitals are acknowledged as important partners within integrated health care delivery systems. The configuration of local health systems is based on the distinct needs and geographic locations of each SRN community.

We envision a future where SRN hospitals improve system capacity and reduce wait times for targeted services by providing additional care and diagnostic services in partnership with larger referral centres and their specialists. SRN hospitals will continue to provide safe, high quality services as cost-effectively as possible as e-health and telemedicine strategies for rural, northern and remote communities develop and thrive with committed government support.

We envision a future where SRN hospitals facilitate a range of innovative models of integrated local health care in partnership with other local health providers. In some rural and northern communities, a health care *campus* model may develop in which the hospital is co-located with, and electronically linked to, a range of community-based and primary care services. In other communities, the hospital may transform into an integrated health care facility which houses urgent and acute care, primary and diagnostic services, and a range of community support services.

We envision a healthcare system that recognizes the spectrum of rurality and remoteness of Ontario communities and continues to respond according to their populations identified healthcare needs. Recognizing the degree of remoteness in parts of our province will help ensure the sustainability of these hospitals.

We envision a future where significant advances in geographically sensitive training & development, recruitment and retention for rural health care professionals is a result of the government's commitment to a new comprehensive rural and northern health policy framework.

We ultimately envision a future where improvements in the overall health status of rural and northern residents in the Province of Ontario are tangible and measurable.

For further information regarding the Small, Rural and Northern Provincial Leadership Council and its initiatives please contact Deborah Cumming at dcumming@oha.com or (416) 205-1391.