



**Date:** November 25, 2025

**Subject:** Proposed Closure of the Kemptville Health Unit

**Attention:** Southeast Public Health Unit

To the Members of the Board,

**On behalf of the Municipality of North Grenville and the Township of Edwardsburg-Cardinal, we are writing to strongly oppose any proposal to close the Kemptville Health Unit office.**

Such a decision would have far-reaching and negative consequences for one of Ontario's fastest-growing rural communities and for the broader Leeds and Grenville region.

North Grenville's population has grown by more than 20 percent in the last decade and continues to expand at one of the highest rates in Eastern Ontario. With significant residential development under way, rising school enrolment, and continued in-migration of families and seniors, the demand for accessible public health services is increasing—not diminishing. The Township of Edwardsburg is also seeing significant growth whose residents are frequent visitors and users of services anchored in Kemptville, particularly health services.

Closing the Kemptville office would risk placing unnecessary strain on already stretched services and create potential barriers for tens of thousands of residents in the region.

The Kemptville Health Unit plays a critical role in:

- **Child and Family Health:** prenatal clinics, breastfeeding support, healthy growth and development check-ins, sexual health clinics—vital demographics in the region.
- **Immunization and Communicable Disease Control:** school-based vaccination programs, outbreak management, and local surveillance—services that are time-sensitive and depend on proximity.
- **Environmental Public Health:** inspections of food premises, recreational water facilities, personal service settings—functions that safeguard community safety and local business continuity.

**Office of the Mayor**

Municipality of North Grenville

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- **Health Equity:** programming for vulnerable residents, including rural low-income families, newcomers, and seniors who often rely on local, transit-accessible services rather than distant offices.
- **Bacteriological testing for thousands of private rural wells**

These services are essential to resilient and thriving communities.

The Municipality of North Grenville, as part of Grenville Country, is a regional service centre with a hospital, a rapidly expanding population, a growing educational and community hub, and a commercial sector that is ramping up to keep pace.

It is neither efficient nor equitable to consolidate services in more distant locations, particularly when North Grenville is one of the largest population centres in the region, and serves a large footprint and thousands of residents well beyond our community, as evidenced by the fact that our neighbour, the Township of Edwardsburg-Cardinal, is a co-signatory to this letter.

Furthermore, reducing public health presence in Kemptville contradicts provincial priorities around:

- Pandemic preparedness and health system resilience
- Rural health access and equity
- Support for rapidly growing municipalities
- Intergovernmental coordination on emergency management

**In summary, we are concerned that the potential closure is being undertaken without sufficient municipal consultation, no comprehensive impact assessment, or consideration of operational efficiencies that could be achieved through partnership rather than withdrawal.**

**We formally request disclosure of the data that led to this decision, as well as reconsideration and reversal by the Health Unit Board of this announced closure based upon all of the concerns noted above.**

North Grenville stands ready to work collaboratively with the Southeast Health Unit to explore viable alternatives, including shared facilities, cost-sharing models, co-locations with municipal or community services, or phased modernization before permanent service reductions are contemplated.

For these reasons, I urge the Board to maintain the Kemptville Health Unit office and to engage directly with the Municipality of North Grenville on how to strengthen – not diminish – local public health capacity.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I would request a formal opportunity to further discuss the impacts and potential solutions.



Sincerely,

Mayor Nancy Peckford  
Municipality of North Grenville

Tory Deschamps  
Mayor, Edwardsburg-Cardinal

Cc: Steve Clark, MPP Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes  
CC: Jeff Shaver, Mayor, Township of Augusta  
Cc: Gauri Shankar, Mayor of Prescott