

# Chrononology of Events

## December 1996

*District Health Council Report threatens to close local hospitals.*

## January 1997

*Hudak speaks at town hall meeting in Fort Erie, says he will fight to keep hospital open.*

## February 1997

*Hudak speaks at town hall meeting in Port Colborne, says he will fight to keep hospital open.*

## February 1997

*Hudak organizes rural MPPs for meetings with Minister of Health to propose a new rural health care plan.*

## March 1997

*Minister of Health Jim Wilson announces government to create Rural Health Care Framework.*

## April 1997

*Hudak appointed as Parliamentary Assistant to Minister of Health and goes to work on Rural Health Care Framework.*

## June 27, 1997

*Rural Health Care Framework unveiled. Fort Erie and Port Colborne Hospitals to stay open.*

## The Rural Health Care Framework

*Fort Erie and Port Colborne Hospitals will stay open!*

1. 24 Hour Emergency Service
2. One Stop Health Care Shopping
3. Beds to Meet Local Needs
4. New Hospital Networks
5. Better Doctor Recruitment

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# Building a Future for our Hospitals

*Putting patients first by improving small community health care and saving Fort Erie and Port Colborne hospitals.*

Compliments of:  
Tim Hudak, MPP  
Niagara South

# Rural Health Care Framework

## Building a Future for Our Hospitals

### 1. 24 Hour Emergency Service

We are putting patients first by guaranteeing that people in Port Colborne and Fort Erie have 24 hour access to emergency services in their communities. Rural residents can be assured that any time, day or night, they will have access to quality health care.

*"Smaller communities in Niagara South, like Port Colborne and Fort Erie, have special circumstances that must be taken into account. Access to emergency services, for example, must be preserved."*

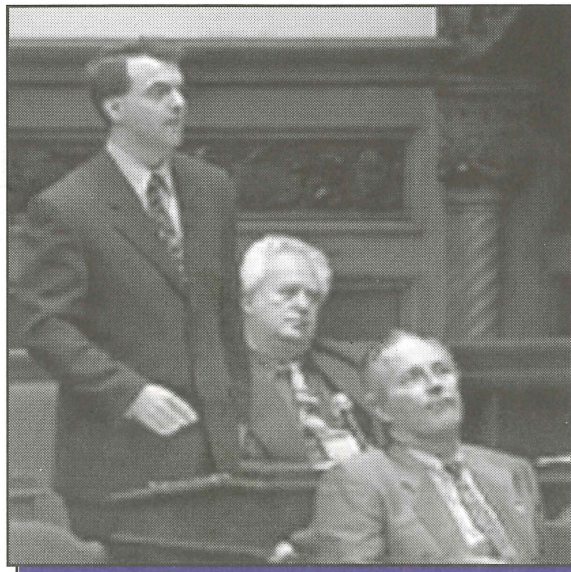
Tim Hudak, MPP  
Legislative Assembly, February 20, 1997

### 2. One Stop Health Care Shopping

Our goal is to encourage the development of a comprehensive system of care with the hospital as the focal point in small communities. This plan will create a system where all parts work together with no delays, no confusion and no duplication.

### 3. Beds to Meet Local Priorities

The Rural Health Care Framework is about local solutions, not fancy models from Toronto. Hospital boards and stakeholders will work within their network and with the District Health Council to determine the appropriate number and type of hospital beds to meet the needs of the community.



Tim fighting for rural Hospitals in the Legislature

### 4. New Hospital Networks

Small community hospitals will become part of a larger network, sharing resources, staff and administration with other hospitals in the area. Local networks will be linked with highly specialized hospitals which will give you, the patient, direct access to high quality, efficient health care services.

*"...constituents in my riding are very concerned about the potential impact of the Niagara District Health Council's Report on Fort Erie and Port Colborne. Let me assure them that I will be standing with the people of Fort Erie and Port Colborne for better health care."*

Tim Hudak, MPP  
Legislative Assembly, December 18, 1996

### 5. Better Doctor Recruitment

Small communities often have difficulties attracting and recruiting health care professionals. By creating a hospital network, specialists will have more reason to come to Niagara. Furthermore, the Framework will provide incentives for doctors to set up practice in Fort Erie, Port Colborne and Wainfleet.