

Ontario Health Coalition

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Attn: Assignment Editor

For Immediate Release

Media Advisory

Pregnant Women, Mothers, Midwives and Community Members Travel to Ontario Legislature to Issue Plea to Save Birthing in their Community

Health Coalition Warns Ontario Government is Systematically Closing Small Town, Rural Birthing and other Women's Health Services

Where: Legislative Assembly of Ontario (Queen's Park) Media Studio.

When: Thursday March 5 at 9:45 a.m.

What: Media conference.

A group of people including pregnant women, local mothers, concerned community members and midwives will bring their concerns about the proposed closure of birthing services at the Leamington Hospital to Queen's Park this Thursday.

Leamington is the latest in a string of small and medium-sized communities in Ontario where birthing services have been cut or threatened. Renfrew, Welland, Niagara Falls, and other communities have seen their local birthing services cut or closed in recent years. This puts women at risk of giving birth on the highway and in precarious weather conditions as they travel more than an hour away to deliver their babies at the nearest hospital with an OB unit. If services as vital and important as birthing can be closed from local hospitals than nothing is safe, and local communities rightfully fear the closure of other vital services and even entire hospitals.

Who: Save Leamington OB, the Essex County Health Coalition and the Ontario Health Coalition.

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