

TAB 6



**CITY OF PORT COLBORNE
TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET
HEALTHCARE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**REPORT FROM THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE**

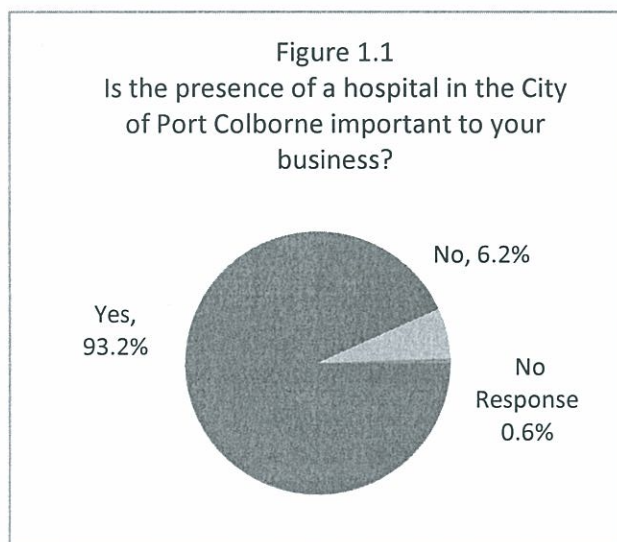
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PORT COLBORNE & WAINFLEET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
(REPRESENTING 179 LOCAL BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRY)

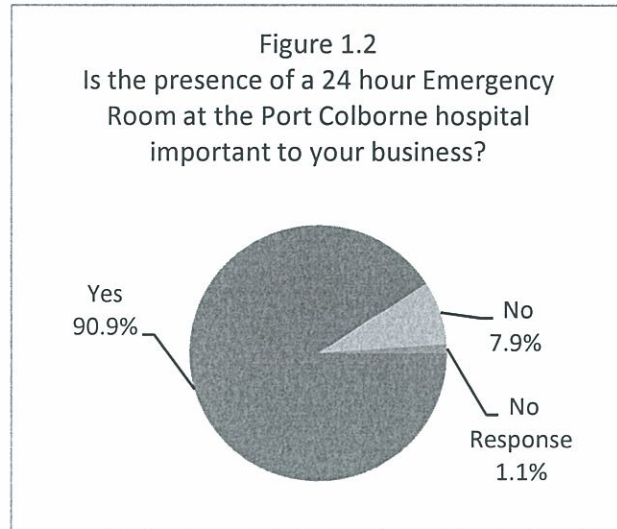
It is clear that the business communities of the City of Port Colborne and Township of Wainfleet views the presence of Port Colborne General Hospital, with a 24 hour Emergency Room, as important to their businesses, the retention of business and the ability to support economic development in the City of Port Colborne and Township of Wainfleet.

SURVEY OF LOCAL BUSINESSES

During August and September 2008, the Economic Development Sub-committee in conjunction with the Port Colborne & Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce conducted a mail survey of local businesses. The survey was issued as a means to receive opinions from the local business community on the impact of proposed changes to the Port Colborne General Hospital site made under the Niagara Health Systems Hospital Improvement Plan (HIP) dated July 15, 2008. The surveys were mailed or hand-delivered to businesses and industry in the City of Port Colborne and Township of Wainfleet. Completed surveys were returned to the Port Colborne & Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce by fax or mail. The results of the 177 survey respondents were tabulated by the Economic Development Sub-committee as follows:

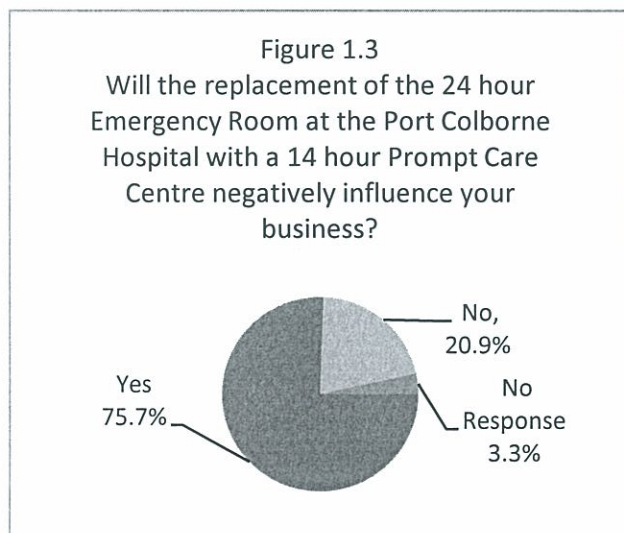


When asked if the presence of a hospital in the city of Port Colborne was important to their business, 93.2% of respondents replied "yes" (Figure 1.1). The presence of a hospital in Port Colborne remains important to the business community of Port Colborne and Wainfleet. Of the surveys returned, 100% of those from the *Construction/Trades, Hospitality/ Tourism, Industrial, and Healthcare* sectors concluded unanimously that the hospital was important to their business.



When asked if the presence of a 24 hour Emergency Room at Port Colborne General Hospital was important to their business, 90.9% of respondents replied “yes” (Figure 1.2). The continued operation of a 24 hour Emergency Room is integral to the business community of Port Colborne and Wainfleet. Of the respondents 100% in the *Construction/Trades* and *Hospitality/Tourism* sectors, declared the importance of a 24 hour Emergency Room. The proximity of emergency care is important to the

burgeoning hospitality and tourism sector along the shores of Lake Erie. Businesses with high occupational risks associated with them such as construction and trades unanimously indicated the importance of a 24 hour Emergency Room at Port Colborne General Hospital.



When asked if the replacement of the 24 hour Emergency Room with a 14 hour Prompt Care Centre at the Port Colborne General Hospital would negatively influence their business, the majority of respondents replied “yes” (Figure 1.3). Summarily, 89% of respondents from businesses in sectors such as *Construction/Trades*, *Industrial* and *Healthcare* suggested the replacement of a 24 hour Emergency Room at Port Colborne General Hospital with a 14 hour Prompt Care Centre would negatively influence their business.