

December 5, 2016

TO: The Hon. Dr. Eric Hoskins
Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

The Hon. Deb Matthews
Deputy Premier of Ontario

CC: The Hon. Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario

FROM: Karl Straky Sr.
#WEareready Campaign Supporter

RE: **THE WINDSOR – ESSEX HOSPITALS SYSTEM PLAN**
4TH CAMPAIGN LETTER OF SUPPORT
APPROVAL FOR STAGE 2 STATUS

Dear Dr. Eric Hoskins & Deb Matthews:

As an Ambassador for the new “WEareready” Hospital Campaign and now as founder and spokesperson for a concerned group of local citizens, this letter is addressed to the two of you as the current and past Minister’s of Health for the period starting in 2012 asking for your immediate involvement in addressing specific issues critical to our project that unless addressed in a timely manner could have a negative impact on its progress where things could begin to unravel and be delayed for an extended period of time. This would be somewhat devastating to our community which has been working so hard to have our new and badly needed acute care hospital built for our region.

The key issue at hand is the status of approval for Stage 2, which as understood is contingent on the releasing of funding, previously committed by your government in 2013, and which is to be released upon completion and approval of Phase 1A by the Ministry.

SOURCE: WRH Website: January 2013 – Finance Minister Dwight Duncan announced funding for hospitals to proceed with Phase 1 planning for a new state-of-the-art acute care facility. This included \$2.5 million to prepare an initial 1A submission to government; an additional \$35 million would flow for further planning upon completion and Ministry approval of the 1A submission.

A tremendous amount of time and energy has been spent over the past 4 ½ years since your government formed a Windsor Hospital’s Study Task Force to examine the need for a new regional acute care hospital to replace the current facilities.

In January 2013, your government and the Ministry of Health recognized this need and announced funding to proceed with phase 1 planning for a new state-of-the-art acute care facility. This included funding to prepare an initial 1A submission to government; with an additional \$35 million flowing for further planning upon completion and Ministry approval of the 1A submission.

The record now shows that all related work associated with the completion and submittal of Stage 1 of the 5 stage process has been completed and forwarded to the Capital Branch of the MOHLTC and as understood Stage 1A has been approved and we are now awaiting Stage 1B approval which is contingent on the release of \$35 million in funding, moving our project to Stage 2 status.

In recent comments made by you in both our local media and as listed in your July 25th response letter, we acknowledge that our project is in the early stages of planning and agree with the importance for getting it right. However with the completion, submittals and approval of the above said Stage 1A requirements having addressed these issues and now without your approval for Stage 1B, work on our project has come to a standstill.

We are now at a very critical stage in the process and your urgent attention and approval for moving our project forward is required and we strongly encourage your government to do the right thing for our community and approve our project for Stage 2 status.

This must be done in the short term and not delayed indefinitely into the next year. If this were to occur, other damaging factors could come into play further delaying our project. Too much hard work has been done over the past four years to allow this to happen.

Moving this crucially needed project forward in the process remains our community's #1 priority.

Thank you in advance for your attention in this matter and your favourable response.

(By return, please acknowledge receipt of this letter)

Regards....

Karl Straky Sr.
Lasalle, Ontario