

February 6, 2019

To: The Hon. Christine Elliott – Deputy Premier/Minister of Health
Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care

From: Mr. Karl Straky Sr.
LaSalle, Ontario

Cc: Rick Nicholls
MPP Chatham-Kent-Leamington

Re: **The Windsor-Essex Hospital Systems Plan**

The Hon. Christine Elliott

My name is Karl Straky Sr., and I am writing this personal letter as a follow up to our brief discussions held during the PC Caucus “meet & greet” event in Chatham the evening of September 17th, 2018 as related to the new Windsor-Essex Hospital Systems Plan for our region.

I want to personally thank you for the time you afforded me during the PC Caucus event, to speak briefly on these urgent issues facing us for getting our badly needed hospital system built to better service our most vulnerable citizens in need of better healthcare.

I attended this event as a guest of Rick Nicholls, your MPP representative for the Chatham-Kent-Essex County Leamington area whom I have known for some time and who I have been working with to find ways to accomplish this. Even though I am a resident of LaSalle near Windsor my personal interests are to help where I can to get this done for our overall community needs beyond the immediate Windsor area, During this event I met several other Ministers and MPPs some of whom I had met before at other events asking them to support getting our hospital system built.

I have been following the planning process for the new hospital system for some time now, which began early 2012 where after three years the local hospital planning group prepared and submitted a plan to Ministry of Health to get things moving.

This has been a long drawn out process and as a local resident it is somewhat disheartening for things to take so long. Yes, I understand the process is complex and complicated, but how many years do we have to wait to get it done?

Hopefully with your new government, you will take a different approach to things, not only for our community but for all communities in the same dismal shape that we are in. There is NO area in more dire need than our aging and outdated health care facilities that are near a century old. While we have patched these facilities together over the years, the foundation and infrastructure continues to crumble and it is clear that parts are still in the dark ages making it impossible to provide even the basic needs for our most vulnerable citizens and loved ones in need of modern day Healthcare.

I am an engineer and strategic planner with over 35 years of experience working in the private sector on major multimillion dollar projects and programs domestically and globally in the US, Canada, Europe, Asia and Japan and there is clear evidence here that this process has not been managed in the best interest of our most vulnerable citizens in need of modern day healthcare.

My direct experience with our local hospital system began in early 2012 as patient advocate and caregiver during our most precious family member’s 2/1/2 year final life’s journey. My experiences and involvement with the health care professionals, hospital systems and protocol during this period especially the ER department are all well documented and to a great extent with much encouragement

for me to stay involved is why I have become so engaged with the new hospital plan for our region to get it built sooner than later and to work on programs focusing on Family and Patient Centred Care..

I spent over 230 days in hospital exceeding 2000 hrs and documenting over 2000 pages of notes, reports, etc engaging myself and supporting the medical staff to hopefully achieve the best outcome for our loved one.

I founded an independent and non- partisan advocacy group of concerned local citizens, starting in 2016 that fully support the new Windsor-Essex Hospital systems Plan for our region. Our initiatives are focused on working with key decision makers within the process to navigate and influence the process to get our new Hospital System's Plan built, sooner than later.

What started as a letter writing campaign to the previous Health Minister and other key decision makers in 2016, rapidly grew into a grass roots organization totalling over 800 listed supporters along with multiple locally owned businesses, who all support our cause.

***We are a proactive and positive organization in support of
"Better Healthcare"
For our most vulnerable citizens in need.***

For your reference attached is a copy of a Windsor Star article dated August 3, 2018 to give you an overview of who we are and my personal involvement in this process.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter and I await your early response to the issues at hand.

Regards:

*Karl P. Straky Sr.
Citizens for Healthcare*