

March 2, 2016

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

FROM: Karl Straky Sr  
#WEareready Campaign Supporter

CC: David Musyj, President and CEO, Windsor Regional Hospital  
Janice Kaffer, President and CEO, Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare  
Martin Girash, Chair, Erie St. Clair LHIN  
Gary Switzer, CEO, Erie St. Clair LHIN

RE: **THE WINDSOR-ESSEX HOSPITALS SYSTEM.**  
**The #WEareready Campaign.**

Dear Dr. Eric Hoskins:

My name is Karl Straky and I am writing this letter to add our family's voice in support of the #WEareready campaign to build the badly needed new state of the art acute healthcare facility for the Windsor/Essex region replacing the near century old facilities which are nearing the end of their life's cycle.

Our community leaders have worked hard putting together a comprehensive plan outlining the proposed Windsor-Essex Hospitals System project and our family asks for the support of your Ministry to help move this project forward in the process.

Our family has a very personal and special interest in seeing this project become a reality for the future needs of our community and feel strongly the time is now to move forward.

Our story goes to the heart of why so many of our loved ones go to a hospital for care only to leave with something that negatively impacts their quality of life and long term well being.

In July of 2014, our family lost our most precious loved one to a serious hospital borne infection known as Pseudomonas aeruginosa, after a 2 ½ year final life's journey that started with a massive heart attack in August 2012.

From the outset of our journey we experienced many ups and downs, and prior to the heart attack, our loved one was a healthy and active member of the community. Sometime after the heart attack our loved one tested positive for VRE and MRSA which was our first introduction to hospital borne infections. We were told this is somewhat commonplace and non life threatening however shortly thereafter our loved one experienced two serious bouts of C Difficile (CFI) the second of which was near life threatening. We battled our way through and got her home within three months and thought we were good to go.

Not to be, shortly thereafter our loved one started experiencing pneumonia like lung infections that were not treatable with the commonly used antibiotics. After further testing the infection was found to be Pseudomonas aeruginosa . Heavy duty treatment started and our end of life journey took a dark turn.

This is our story and the question remains.... *What could have been done differently to have a better outcome?*

Our loved one did not lose her life's battle to the initial heart attack or related issues that might have occurred through recovery. She got through that, got to go home and restart her new normal life. The medical professionals did their job in saving her life, fixing things and getting her home.

She lost her life's battle to in-hospital borne infections which with adequate care and attention and more specifically adequate facilities and infrastructure most likely could have been avoided. Our near century old facilities makes it extremely challenging and difficult to control and prevent the spread of such unwanted in-hospital borne infections.

In-hospital infections goes to the heart of the Hospital Quality Ontario (HQO) and Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) recently announced by Premier Kathleen Wynne, mandating each and every hospital within our system to establish programs to monitor and improve services and to *Put Patients at the Centre – The Right Care, Right Place, Right Time.*

In-hospital infection control is a system wide challenge and with steps outlined as part of the QIP mandate, improvements should be realized on a hospital to hospital basis and for those communities who have modern state of the art *five star facilities*, improvements should be stellar.

Our community is now in a holding pattern waiting for our new state of the art *five star facility*, to give us an equal opportunity to also realize stellar results.

We need the support of all the key decision makers to make this a reality.

***Success in life is limited by the intelligence and the quality of the tools one has.  
The intelligence we have, all we need now are the tools...***

***The time is now to move forward -- WEare ready***

Thank you for your time and attention.

Regards...

Karl Straky Sr.  
LaSalle, Ontario