

November 15, 2019

To: The Hon. Christine Elliott,  
Deputy Premier/Minister of Health and Long-Team Care

Cc: The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Peter Bethlenfaly, President of the Treasury Board of Ontario  
Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance of Ontario  
Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure of Ontario  
Helen Angus, Deputy Minister of Health and long Term Care  
Melanie Fraser, Associate Deputy Minister of Health Services  
Robin Martin, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health & Long Term Care

David Musyj, President and CEO, Windsor Regional Hospital  
Janice Kaffer, President and CEO, Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare  
Ralph Ganter, CEO, Erie St. Clair LHIN  
Janice Dawson, CEO, Erie Shores Healthcare  
Drew Dilkens, Mayor - City of Windsor  
Gary McNamara, Warden - County of Essex  
Rick Nicholls, MPP Chatham-Kent-Leamington  
Percy Hatfield, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh  
Taras Natashak, MPP Essex  
Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor-West

From: Karl P Straky Sr.  
Citizens *for* Healthcare – Windsor-Essex Region

Re: **The Windsor - Essex Hospitals System Plan**  
**State of Affairs - Stages 2/3 Approval**

**The Hon. Christine Elliott**

I am writing to address the recent announcement made by your Ministry with regards to the Infrastructure Ontario P3 Market Update – Fall 2019 News Release, dated September 10, 2019, where our project is listed with no defined RFQ date and as a follow up to our previous meeting held during the September 17th, 2018 PC Caucus “Meet & Greet Event” in Chatham and attached letters dated February 6, 2019, and May 23, 2019.

During the PC Caucus event, you and I discussed our Windsor - Essex Hospitals System Plan in some detail and the importance of moving our project forward in the process and where I solicited your support with reconfirmation of Stage 2 status which was previously announced on December 1, 2017.

The follow up letters covered our discussions in detail and where we requested a meeting with you or members of your staff to update the current status with planned next steps for our project, with members of our organization and local MPP’s.

The December 1, 2017 announcement, by the previous Minister approving our project for Stage 2 status, has become the new benchmark for our Windsor-Essex Hospitals System Plan however our project has been at a standstill for the past two years with little evidence of anything being done from our community’s perspective. In addition to little or no funding for Stage 2 work, suggesting a delay for up to 5 years beyond the original commitments and approvals for our project.

And now with the September 10<sup>th</sup> Infrastructure Ontario P3 Market Update report, our project is in a state of crisis, with no defined RFQ date.

As spokesperson & founder of an independent and non-partisan community based organization founded in 2016, representing over 1000 local concerned citizens, this is of great concern to us. As a proactive organization, we have been actively involved with every aspect of the 5 stage process and fully support the new Windsor-Essex Hospitals System Plan process for getting our new hospitals system built. (Attached is a list of our supporters for your reference.)

**The main concern we have is with the process and the associated timelines.**

- On June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the Windsor Regional Hospital Planning Committee submitted the Stage 1 Proposal Submissions, Part B Service Support Infrastructure Report requesting MOHLTC's approval to proceed to Stage 2 Functional Program Planning.
- In the December 1, 2017 announcements made by the previous Minister of Health in Windsor, he stated on the record, approval for moving the Windsor-Essex Hospitals System Plan forward in the process to Stage 2 status with funding in the 2017 budget and with specific instructions for the Minister of infrastructure to file RFQ's in 2021.
- Subsequent, written communication from the Ministry identified progress to Stage 2 would take place upon the completion of certain limited Stage #1 proposal requirements with farther ongoing examination,
- Based on the above it has come to our attention that the Stage #1 proposal examination remains incomplete and to that extent is contributing to delays preventing our project from moving forward to Stage 2.

We thank you for including our project on this list, however we are concerned with our project being delayed for some 5 years beyond the original planned date, as compared to the December 1, 2017 commitment and ask for your review of these circumstances and for your Ministry of Health to take corrective action reinstating our project to the previous order of priorities, with clearly identified next steps for our project.

Because of this and with the recent September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Infrastructure Ontario P3 Market Update report, following is a list of questions that we would like to address on their individual merits, and ask for your response in writing, as to the current status for these questions.

**A] Infrastructure Ontario P3 Market Update – Fall 2019 News Release - September 10, 2019:**

Based on the information presented in this document listing the Windsor-Essex Regional Hospital Plan without a firm RFQ date, this information is in conflict with the December 1, 2017 commitment and approvals for Stage 2 status.

- December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017: RFQ's to be issued - 2021 (est. completion date: ≥2025)
- September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019: RFQ's to be issued - >5 years (est. completion date: ≥2030)

**Questions:**

- a) Upon completion of the outstanding Stage 1 requirement, what would be the timing for listing the firm RFQ date for the Windsor Regional Hospital in this document?
- b) Upon completion of the outstanding Stage 1 requirement, when will funding flow for Stage 2 work?
- c) In consideration our project was approved for Stage 2 status on December 1, 2017 with stated RFQ date, what are the plans for the Ministry of Health to rectify this difference and reprioritize the timing for our project, establishing an earlier and defined RFQ date?

**B] Project Status:**

Based on the information presented, it has taken over 7 ½ years to get to this point including the past 4 ½ years since the completion and submission of the Stage 1 B Proposal letter sent June 2015 to the MOHLTC requesting approval to move to Stage 2 Functional Program Planning and 2 years since the December 1, 2017, announcements and approval moving our project to Stage 2 status with funding approved in the 2017 budget. Upon completion of all Stage 1 planning requirements we have the following questions.

**Questions:**

- a) What will be the timing of Stage 2 approval?

- b) What will be the timing of Stage 3 approval?
- c) What will be the timing for funding Stage 2 work?
- d) What is the allocated funding amount for Stage 2?
- e) What is the timeline for completing Stage 2?

C] Sound Fiscal Planning:

At this stage of the process the reference to sound fiscal planning was specific to approval moving our project to Stage 2 status only. The funding was approved in the 2017 budget as was announced on December 1, 2017 therefore the funding was already committed for Stage 2 work.

Questions:

- a) Does an allocation remain for the Stages 2/3 costs as identified in the December 1, 2017 approval statements?
- b) In the event the funding has not been identified, when can we anticipate the funding to be identified for future stages of work?

D] Its Priorities for Planning:

To address the priorities for planning, one need's to first identify the Priority?

**Quoting from:** Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, January 22, 2019 News Release

Ontario's Government for the People Investing in Urgent Hospitals....

*"The health and safety of patients and families is a priority for our government," said Elliott.*

*"That's why we must make the necessary investments in our hospitals now, to ensure our providers have the facilities they need to continue to provide excellent quality care to patients....."*

**Quoting from:** Chris Lewis, a former Kingsville councillor and firefighter, hopes to become the Ontario PC Party candidate for the riding of Essex, - Windsor Star - January 1, 2018.

Lewis told his supporters.....If he received the nomination ....

*"He would focus on.....fast-forwarding the mega-hospital plan."*

It is clear your government and Ministry has identified the need for new infrastructure and plans for our region, however we continue to be at a critical state for making this a reality and we need your support and approval to get it done.

We thank you again for your time and attention and we appreciate receiving your timely response to the questions listed herein and our request for a meeting.

Regards:



**Karl P Straky Sr.**  
Citizens for Healthcare