

November 7, 2016

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

CC: The Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
The Hon. Deb Matthews, Deputy Premier of Ontario
Dr. Robert Bell, Deputy Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
John Fraser, MPP, Parliamentary Assistant to the MOHLTC

David Musyj, President and CEO, Windsor Regional Hospital
Janice Kaffer, President and CEO, Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare
Martin Garish, Chair, Erie St, Clair LHIN
Ralph Ganter, Acting CEO, Erie St, Clair LHIN

Taras Natyshak, MPP Essex
Percy Hatfield, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh
Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor West
Rick Nicholls, MPP Chatham-Kent-Essex

France Gelinas, MPP, Health Critic
Jeff Yurek, MPP, Health Critic

FROM: Karl Straky Sr.
#WEareready Campaign Supporter.

RE: **THE WINDSOR-ESSEX HOSPITALS SYSTEM PLAN**
3RD CAMPAIGN LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Dr. Eric Hoskins:

Thank you for your July 25th letter of response to our #Weareready Campaign letters dated March 2nd and June 20th, in support of the badly needed new state-of-the-art Acute Healthcare and Auxiliary Hospital Facilities Plan for our Windsor-Essex Region.

We first thank you for your kind words and personal condolences on the death of our family's most precious loved one, who's 2 ½ year final life's journey speaks to why our region is in such urgent need of new healthcare facilities to avoid similar and future happenings to other families and their loved ones.

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

For this our 3rd campaign letter we again ask for your continued support and attention to the process of moving our project forward on a priority basis, so our community can realize our own new state of the art "**five star facility**", giving us equal opportunity to achieve these goals.

In your July 25th, letter of response, you outlined clearly your government's commitment to making capital investments across the healthcare sector and more specifically you addressed the current status of our newly proposed Windsor-Essex Hospitals System Plan, which is in the early stages of planning and is at Stage 1 of the Proposal Part A & B review process as outlined in the Capital Planning Process and is under review by the Ministry, the Erie St. Clair LHIN, Windsor Regional Hospital and HDGHealthcare to advance planning for the proposed new acute care facility.

Also in your letter, you state that "The government will continue to assess needs on the basis of sound fiscal planning guided by its priorities for the health care system."

For myself and a growing list of concerned community supporters we collectively would like to address each of these issues on their own merit and request your response in writing giving us a clear understanding on each step of the process and solicit your guidance on how we can best influence and move the process along to realize our new hospital sooner than later.

"So the question is, when can we expect approval moving our project to Stage 2?"

A] Project Status:

As it now stands, it has taken over 4 ½ years to get to this point in the process including the past 6 months for the review of Stage 1, and as understood all the related work as identified as Stage 1A has now been completed by both the Erie St. Clair LHIN and Windsor Regional & HDGHealthcare Hospitals and has been forwarded to the Capital Branch of the MOHLTC for final review and approval. So at Stage 1B, we are awaiting approval for moving to Stage 2.

According to the Capital Planning Process, at Stage 1B, there is a "**Stop Sign**" stating "Requires Government approval to Plan", which as understood is related to funding approval to move to Stage 2, as stated in the Windsor Regional Hospital Website, (plans for the Acute Care Site timelines, January 2013) where an additional \$35 million would flow for further planning, etc.

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.

Questions:

- a) What is the Status of Stage 1A approval?
- b) What is the status of Stage 1B?
- c) What is the status of the "Stop Sign" as related to funding approval for Stage 2 status?
- d) When can we anticipate approval moving our project to Stage 2?

B] Sound Fiscal Planning:

At this stage of the process the reference to sound fiscal planning is specific to approval moving our project to Stage 2 status only. As understood this is related to the \$35 million noted above and required for Stage 1B approval to move to Stage 2.

Questions:

- a) What is the status for the \$35 million identified in 2013?
- b) When can we anticipate the funding to be released and the approval of Stage 1B moving our project to Stage 2 status.

C] Its Priorities for Planning:

To address the priorities for planning within the health care system, one need's to first identify what is the *Priority*? Referring to Premier Kathleen Wynne's November, 2014 & September, 2016 Mandate Letters: Health and Long-Term Care addressed to you as minister, clearly states the #1 priority for the delivery of healthcare to all Ontarian's is:

Putting Patients at the Centre – the Right Care, Right Place, Right Time”
“Patients First Action Plan”

With that said, the “patient's needs are the Priority” .

It goes without saying the current conditions within our community at both our local Acute Care Hospitals are generally only adequate in meeting the needs for the average patients care however, are in many cases inadequate or challenging in addressing the needs of our most vulnerable patients.

There are many fact based and evidence based examples which speak to this and which are in many cases Media based. The most recent example, which devastated our community during this past summer when all of the WRH Quellette Campus' operating rooms, representing 50% of our communities operating room capacity went off line during several weeks due to the failure of old and antiquated sterilization facilities and equipment, which has been in use for some 45 to 50 years and well beyond the life expectancy for such equipment, is unspeakable and as some would say, downright cruel. The impact on those patients scheduled for surgery resulting in numerous cancellations and rescheduling is beyond belief let alone the stress, mental health and physical well being of these patients and staff being compromised is inexcusable.

<https://windsorhospitalsblog.org/2016/04/13/building-new-vs-renovating/>

Our family's evidence based examples totaling over 2000 pages of documented notes, gathered over 230 days in hospital as personal care givers during the 2 ½ year period of our loved one's final life's journey, speaks strongly to the needs for replacement of our near century old facilities with new state-of-the-art healthcare facilities.

Questions:

- a) With the focus being on the patient, what priorities should be focused on by our community for your approval moving our project to Stage 2 status?
- b) What urgent steps is the ministry taking to minimize the reoccurrence of frequent failures in both infrastructure and equipment in the interim period of the process?
- c) What other fact based and evidence based examples and information is needed to prioritize our project status in the queue for approval.

We ask for your timely response to the above questions and thank you for your continued support and guidance.

As an Ambassador for the new “WEareready” Hospital Campaign and now as founder and spokesperson for a Local Citizen's “Grass Roots Group”, who are in support of this plan, now totaling over 200 community supporters, 26 local companies and a strategic planning group of community leaders, our current focus continues to be approval for stage 2 status.

It is our groups Mandate, to continue being involved in the process for moving our project forward and to work diligently in a positive manner, speaking out, writing letters and meeting with local and provincial leaders and key power brokers, soliciting support to help expedite things on a timely basis and to get our project built sooner than later.

It is clear your government and ministry has identified the need for new infrastructure and plans for our region, however we are now at the critical stage for making this an official project and we need your support and approval along with that of the Deputy Premier Deb Matthews and the Premier Kathleen Wynne to make this happen. "We ask you for this support..."

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 again for your time and attention, and hopefully we may have the opportunity to meet personally sometime in the future.

(By return, please acknowledge receipt of this letter)

Regards....

Karl Straky Sr.
LaSalle, Ontario