

October 15, 2020

To: The Honourable Rod Phillips
Minister of Finance
c/o Budget Secretariat
Frost Building North, 3rd Floor
95 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z1
Email: submissions@ontario.ca

Cc: Stan Cho - Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance
Rick Nicholls – MPP (Chatham-Kent—Leamington)

From: Karl Straky Sr
Citizens for Healthcare, Windsor-Essex

Re: **Fall 2020 Ontario Budget Consultation**
“Share your ideas”
Windsor-Essex Hospital Systems Plan - Stages 2 & 3 Funding

The Hon. Rod Phillips

Thank you for the opportunity given us to participate in the upcoming 2020 Ontario Consultation process and to share with you our concerns and needs for immediate funding action for our new Windsor-Essex Hospital Systems plan.

The dreadful effect of the Covid19 Pandemic has further highlighted the significant physical limitations of our very outdated healthcare system, and further emphasizes the immediate need for action to get our new Windsor-Essex Hospitals system built.

Planning for our new W/E Hospitals Systems plan was started in 2012 by the previous government and in late 2017 the plan was approved for Stage 2 funding with RFQ's to be filed in 2021.

Your new government was elected to power in June 2018, and our project was put on hold pending your government's action. In the latest September 2020 - P3 Market Update report our project is now listed with an RFQ date of more than 5 years which now delays our project for a minimum of 6 years with no new hospital being completed before 2031.

That would be some 19 years from when the hospital plan was started and based on past records, most major hospital systems similar to our project would be completed within 15 years.

This is a devastating forecast for our most vulnerable citizen's in need of better healthcare.

The completion of Stage's 2 & 3 are critical for moving our project forward and to be completed in a more reasonable time frame and before 2028.

We are hereby requesting the following funding considerations, for Stages 2 & 3 as follows:

- **Stage 2 funding of approximately \$3 million be made available immediately allowing for Stage 2 work to restart.**
- **An additional sum of approximately \$7 million to be included in the 2021-22 Budget for work to continue through Stage 3.**
- **With this funding, Stages 2 & 3 work could be completed within 3 to 4 years.**

Members of our organization participated in the recent January 29th, 2020 Pre-Budget Consultation meeting held in Windsor with both verbal presentation and written submissions, where we addressed in detail our requests for Stage's 2 & 3 funding for moving our project forward in the process and with copies on file with your Mr. Stan Cho, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance and Member, Standing Committee of Finance and Economic Affairs.

Based on the above and recent events that have occurred relative to our new hospital plan initiatives, it is now clearer than ever, that you're Government has what is necessary to re-approve funding for Stage's 2 & 3 and to set firm RFQ dates for the next planning phases to get our project moving forward and built prior to 2028.

The only current delay in proceeding with planning is the necessary \$3 million from the Province of Ontario to restart Phase 2.

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- **The legal challenges associated with the location of the new Acute Care Regional Hospital have been put to rest with the July 29, 2020, decision from the Ontario Superior Court of Justice Divisional Court.**

CAMPP denied leave to appeal hospital location but further appeal possible

Anne Jarvis • Windsor Star Publishing date: Jul 31, 2020

<https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/campp-denied-leave-to-appeal-hospital-location-but-further-appeal-possible>

- *Citizens for an Accountable Megahospital Planning Process have been denied leave to appeal the location of the planned new \$2-billion hospital on County Road 42 to Ontario's divisional court.*

- *"In my view, CAMPP has failed to demonstrate that leave to appeal should be granted with respect to any of the grounds of appeal that it proposes," Ontario Divisional Court Justice Gregory J. Verbeem concluded in his 48-page ruling released Thursday.*

- *The judge not only dismissed CAMPP's motion for leave to appeal, he hit the group with a total of \$28,250 in costs for the city, which approved the Official Plan and zoning bylaw amendments for the project, and Windsor Regional Hospital, which was also a party to the case.*

- *Although he agreed that CAMPP met the criteria for a public interest litigant — meaning it raised issues of broad importance for the community and therefore shouldn't be subjected to costs — the judge concluded that its motion for leave to appeal "lacked any merit."*

Jarvis: It's time to build it

Anne Jarvis • Windsor Star Publishing date: Aug 01, 2020

<https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/jarvis-its-time-to-build-it>

- *"...failed to demonstrate that leave to appeal should be granted...no chance of success."*

- *There was no equivocating in Superior Court Justice Gregory J. Verbeem's ruling denying Citizens for an Accountable Megahospital Planning Process leave to appeal the location of the planned new hospital on County Road 42 to Ontario's divisional court. CAMPP's motion was roundly and flatly denied...*

- **The new Regional Acute Care Hospital in conjunction with improvements to the regional healthcare system plan continues to be the #1 Priority of the City of Windsor and County of Essex. The only current delay on proceeding with planning is the necessary \$3 million from the Province of Ontario.**

Premier says he'll be '800-pound gorilla' fighting for new Windsor hospital

Brian Cross - Windsor Star - Publishing date - Aug 14, 2020 •

<https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/premier-says-hell-be-800-pound-gorilla-fighting-for-new-windsor-hospital/wcm/5d90d658-8d75-416f-9864-5916dd9d40ec/>

- Meeting with the region's mayors has spurred Ontario's premier to emphatically declare that a new \$2-billion hospital for Windsor-Essex is his "No. 1 priority."

- At the Erie Street's Nico Taverna attended by every local mayor. Ford said he listened to them all and every one said the same thing that the new acute care hospital— still in the planning stages after eight years— is desperately needed.

- "Since it's their No. 1 priority, my No. 1 priority now is to give proper health care to Windsor-Essex, the entire region," Ford said. "I'm going to battle for them."

- Every local mayor, including Chatham-Kent Mayor Darrin Canniff, talked about the importance of the hospital project moving to the next step of the approval process,

- Dilkens said "We have one of the oldest hospitals in all of Ontario; we have rooms where there are five patients and no bathroom in a room. And when you have a pandemic and you're trying to isolate people, you don't have the majority of rooms that are individual rooms," he said, suggesting that the aging hospitals made it more difficult to stop the spread of the virus.

- An hour later, Ford told reporters "it's not fair" that people in Windsor must attend century-old hospitals. "They're in desperate, desperate need of this," he said of the new hospital.

- "Message to the finance minister, president of treasury, minister of health: I'm coming. I just have to support them, folks, simple as that."

Thank you once again for the opportunity to participate in the 2020 Consultation Process and trust you will find our concerns and needs to further invest in frontline health care and protecting families to remain a priority for our Windsor Essex region and to be included in the next phase of Ontario's Action Plan.

Sincerely, On behalf of
CITIZENS for HEALTHCARE



Karl P. Straky Sr.

William C. Smith - Kenneth Schmidt - Kathryn Hengl - Karl Straky