

January 29, 2021

To: Mr. Michael Parsa
Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board
c/o Budget Secretariat
Frost Building North, 3rd floor
95 Grosverner Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z1
Email: submissions@ontario.ca

Cc: Rick Nichols – MPP (Chatham – Kent - Leamington)
Robert Bailey – MPP Sarnia - Lambton

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

Re: **2021 Ontario Budget Consultation – Windsor-Essex Townhall
January 29, 2021 Webinar Virtual Meeting
“Hearing ideas directly from the people”**

**Windsor - Essex Hospitals System Plan project.
Stages 2 & 3 Funding Request
Presentation Submission Documents**

Dear Michael Parsa

Thank you for the opportunity given us to participate in the above January 29th Virtual Windsor –Essex Townhall Budget Consultation Meeting to share our concerns and needs for immediate funding action for our existing and new Windsor-Essex Hospitals system plan for our region.

Attachments:

- January 29, 2021 - Windsor-Essex Town hall - Virtual presentation document. - MOF
- October 15, 2020 - Fall 2020 Ontario Budget Consultation – Submission letter - MOF
- January 29, 2020 – 2020 Ontario Pre-Budget Consultation Meeting – MOF
- *Windsor Star Article: Deep inside the COVID – 19 trenches – Windsor Regional Hospital*

Our community based organization has been involved in the new W/E Hospital planning process since 2016 working closely with all key local and provincial decision makers in support of the development and construction of these new healthcare facilities.

Our participation in this Virtual meeting is a follow up to our earlier involvements in the January 29th, 2020 Pre-Budget Consultation meeting held in Windsor and October 15, 2020 written submission letter addressed to the Minister of Finance, Rod Phillips outlining in detail our request for the immediate funding needs to restart Stages 2 & 3 planning work for our new Hospitals system plan.

Our official request is for the Ontario Government in this 2021 Budget include and release funding for the new Windsor-Essex Hospitals Systems plan, Stages 2 & 3 planning, in the sum of \$10M for work to immediately restart with completion of all related work within a 2 year period.

Regards On behalf of **Citizens *for* Healthcare**



Karl Straky Sr.

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2021 Ontario Budget Consultation Virtual Meeting January 29, 2021

Michael Parsa – Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board

Hearing ideas directly from the people.

“How can we continue to support people and employers during COVID-19 as we build on Ontario’s response to the global pandemic and plan for a strong economic recovery.”

Citizens for Healthcare Windsor-Essex presentation by Karl Straky Sr.

Good morning everyone. My name is Karl Straky and I am here today representing Citizens for Healthcare Windsor- Essex and we thank you for this opportunity to speak on this very important issue related to plans for economic recovery during COVID 19.

We are a community based organization founded in 2016, representing over 1000 local citizens who have come together in support of better healthcare, for our region.

For today’s agenda, it goes without saying, any and all economic recovery is directly dependant on the health and well being of the community and without state of the art healthcare facilities, the results for any positive recovery could be in doubt.

The effects of this pandemic, has significantly highlighted the physical limitations of our healthcare system and where in Windsor-Essex we have been struggling with century old healthcare facilities for years and now with COVID-19, our healthcare system is on the brink of collapse.

Upgrading and building new state of the art healthcare facilities must continue to be our government’s #1 Priority.

Planning for the upcoming 2021 Budget, as we build on Ontario’s response, in part includes the current Infrastructure Ontario P3 Market Update which lists all major projects and programs being considered for funding.

In review of the major Hospital projects listed in this Update, we notice those major projects listed as being active for funding consideration are located within the GTA, Hamilton and Niagara regions, with the lone exception being the new major Windsor-Essex Hospital project, which has been underway since 2012, is listed as being an inactive project with no firm plans for funding or construction.

This is of concern especially with Windsor-Essex being listed as one of the provinces RED HOT SPOTS for COVID outbreaks along with GTA cities, and yet our region is being excluded from receiving any serious funding considerations for new and improved healthcare facilities in this Budget.

This is alarming and we hereby again request that your government take steps to include funding in this 2021 Budget for the new Windsor-Essex hospital project in accordance with our previous requests made on the record during the 2020 MOF Pre-Budget deliberation hearings.

Written submissions will be sent in support of our request.

In closing: “We all know that a healthy population and a healthy economy go hand in hand”

We thank you again for inviting us to be part of this discussion.

Regards... *Citizens for Healthcare*