



March 4, 2021

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
7 Queen's Park Crescent, 7th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

Dear Minister:

Re: Urgent need for Hospital Funding in Windsor-Essex

I am writing to you on behalf of the residents of the Municipality of Lakeshore, who have clearly, consistently and emphatically expressed their desire for a new, state-of-the art hospital in Windsor-Essex to replace aging, cramped facilities delivering sub-optimal care.

If you could only drive through my municipality, you would see the groundswell of grassroots support for this transformational project. Scores of residents have erected in their front yards green and white lawn signs imploring the province to do the right and responsible thing and support the health and well-being of 400,000 Windsor-Essex residents while supporting the continued economic growth and diversification of this region.

Your government has an incredible opportunity to improve healthcare in Windsor-Essex for generations to come by providing funding for the next phase of this transformational project in your upcoming Budget. You also have the opportunity to back up with clear and concrete action the words of Premier Doug Ford, who, on Aug. 13, 2020, said he would fight like an "800-pound gorilla" for a new Windsor-Essex hospital.

"I will fight tooth and nail for the hospital down there," Ford told reporters and this community after meeting with our regional mayors. "Since it's their No. 1 priority, my No. 1 priority now is to give proper health care to Windsor-Essex, the entire region."



An estimated \$9 million in funding in the upcoming Budget is all that's required to allow Windsor Regional Hospital and its community partners to complete the functional program for the new facility – a significant undertaking that would take at least 18 months to complete.

A lack of funding will derail momentum for this project and send a disquieting message to Windsor-Essex residents, who are tired of paying for hospital projects in other regions while making do with cramped, outdated facilities that deliver, in the words of Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens, "100-year-old health care."

The Municipality of Lakeshore Council has joined every other local Essex County municipality in affirming its support for this transformational project, noting that our municipalities continue to grow and that our residents require access to a state-of-the-art hospital servicing the entire region. Lakeshore residents desperately want to see this project move forward and they want a shovel in the ground as soon as possible.

This project isn't solely about the health of our residents, it's also about the health of our regional economy, which is facing continued uncertainty with the shutdown of the border and challenges associated with the decline of Ontario's traditional manufacturing and industrial base. There is a pressing need to continue the work of diversifying our economy and this hospital project will help us do that.

This project will generate more than 14,000 jobs over its lifetime, generating employee compensation exceeding \$1 Billion and taxes in excess of more than \$200 million, including more than \$68 million for municipal governments across this region. This project will attract to Windsor-Essex the best and brightest in the world of medicine and health care and it will attract more people and more families, fueling increased residential and commercial growth.

The benefits to this project are clear and compelling and I strongly urge you to move it forward with funding in the upcoming Budget.



Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require any further information.

Thank you,

Most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Bain". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Tom Bain,
Mayor

Cc:

Doug Ford, Premier (doug.fordco@pc.ola.org)

Christine Elliott, Minister of Health/Deputy Premier
(Christine.elliott@pc.ola.org)

Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
(michael.tibolloCO@pc.ola.org)

Citizens for Healthcare (info@citizensforhealthcare.com)