

February 7, 2023

To: The Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy - Minister of Finance
Rick Byers - Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance
c/o Budget Secretariat
Frost Building North, 3rd floor
95 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z1
Email: submissions@ontario.ca

Cc: The Hon. Sylvia Jones - Minister of Health/Deputy Premiere
Robin Martin - Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health

Cc: Andrew Dowie - MPP Windsor-Tecumseh
Lisa Gretzky - MPP Windsor West
Trevor Jones - MPP Chatham-Kent-Leamington
Anthony Leardi - MPP Essex

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

Re: **2023 Ontario Pre-Budget Consultations Windsor - Essex**
Citizens for Healthcare Windsor-Essex Public Hearing Presentations
January 16th. 2023 - January 23rd, 2023

Windsor - Essex Acute Care Hospital Plan project.
Stage 3 Funding Request
Written Presentation Submission Documents

Dear Hon. Bethlenfalvy:

We thank you for the opportunity to participate in the above town hall Pre-Budget Consultation Meetings held in Windsor, to share our ideas on "how our government can address shortcomings within our region to build a stronger future environment for both our existing and future families, workers, and businesses". We need to ensure modern healthcare facilities and services are in place to support the building of such a stronger environment.

"Without modern Regional Healthcare facilities in place, it goes without saying that building a stronger future environment for our Region would be challenging"

Our community-based organization has been involved in the new Windsor-Essex Hospitals System planning process since 2016 supporting the development and construction for the new healthcare facilities. We have worked closely with both the new W/E hospital planners and Ontario government officials.

Our initial focus was on Stage 2 funding for the 5 Stage planning process which had stalled for some time. In the March 24th, 2021 Ontario Budget, the \$9.8M funding was approved in support of ongoing planning for the new WE Acute Care Hospital and on October 18, 2021 the funds were released to restart Stage 2 planning work.

On January 24th, 2022 Windsor Regional Hospital named the project director for the new hospital for Stage 2 planning work to begin, and based on recent updates and completion of the Stage 2 functional program as one of the main components of the Stage 2 submission (currently targeted to be submitted to the Ministry in April 2023) presenting all clinical and non-clinical needs for the new hospital, thereby defining the scope of the project.

If the Ministry could begin reviewing the functional program document now, with the goal to approving it in May 2023, the hospital planning and design teams could effectively move right to Stage 3 planning. This provides the opportunity to further the design work into indicative design plans and the preparation of procurement documents, thereby saving a potential 6-9 months in the overall project timelines for these Stages.

In addition, if a similar handoff approach was applied to Stages 4 & 5 planning, including specific pre construction scheduling and planning, we could further reduce the overall timelines to get the new Acute Care Hospital built sooner than 2030 and perhaps as early as 2028.

To accomplish this, for these next 3 stages as outlined, there is an urgency for moving the new Windsor-Essex Acute Care Hospital process forward to protect the integrity of our existing Healthcare system's ability for providing basic care for our regional population during the anticipated 5 year gap between the 2025 opening date for the new \$5B LG Energy Automotive Battery plant under construction and the anticipated 2030 new hospital completion and opening date.

To make this happen, we need this government to commit and **include the \$25M identified for the Stage 3 work in this 2023 Spring budget** to keep the process moving forward in a timely manner.

Our community goal is to have this new Windsor Essex Acute Care Hospital opened by 2030 or sooner. Doing so will bridge the gap and facilitate an appropriate transition to our growing needs.

Windsor Essex continues to see growth and emerging industries:

Much has changed in our area since this process started in 2013 which is why we must move forward now, as we have just suggested, in a timely fashion and with utmost diligence.

Windsor Essex Population Growth

The Windsor-Essex Region has experienced a 5.7 per cent increase in population since 2016. It is expected that this positive trend will continue over the next several years. [Windsor population rises to 229,660, Lakeshore cracks 40,000 barrier | Windsor Star](#)

The Windsor Star recently reported that 1800 refugees and asylum seekers arrived in Windsor in 2022. That number will only increase with all that is going on on the world stage. The 2021 census indicated that there are 96,940 immigrants throughout the County of Essex, showing a 30% growth rate. This indication of the diversity of the area makes us a likely candidate for continued growth, followed by a growing need to provide sufficient and quality healthcare services. [Windsor welcomed an unusually high number of refugees in 2022 | Windsor Star](#)

Windsor Essex Advanced manufacturing (Automotive Production - Feeder Plants, CAV – Connected Autonomous Vehicles, Automation, Mobility Tool & Die) growth:

- \$5 Billion LG Energy Plant for 2024/25 – to employ 2500
 - <https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/windsor-battery-plant-the-largest-private-sector-investment-in-ontario-history>
- \$60 Million Dongshin Motech Ltd. Battery Feeder Plant – employ 300 for Windsor -
 - [Windsor secures new EV feeder plant set to add 300 jobs in ...](#)
- Manufacturing \$4.7 Billion in GDP ***

- Agriculture and Agri-tech (greenhouse technology, automation and cannabis, food & beverage) ***
 - \$3 billion in annual GDP
 - 100 food and beverage processing companies and 1,500 growing operations - 15,000 employees and growing
- Information and communication technologies (artificial intelligence, blockchain, cyber security and mobility) \$236 Million in GDP ***
- Health and life sciences, pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals (\$1.07 Billion in GDP) ***
- Transportation and logistics (warehousing and cross-border technology) (\$588 Million in GDP) ***

Windsor Essex Housing Growth:

Windsor-Essex needs 30,400 new homes by 2031, within the next decade to meet the housing demand. ***

*** **Information Source:** Invest WindsorEssex Website – www.investwindsoressex.com ***

All of this in addition to the continued and blossoming construction of the new International Gordie Howe Bridge which is scheduled to open in late 2024.

When all of these new industry and economic growth opportunities come together in a short period of time, will put enormous pressure on our aging healthcare system, and speaks directly to the need to move this Hospital planning and construction process forward, in a more timely fashion we spoke of early and with utmost diligence.

Our current *century old healthcare facilities* can no longer handle the existing demands for services and with these anticipated and planned developments for our region, will only increase that demand for Healthcare Services.

To meet these timelines and more importantly the future healthcare needs of our community, we are officially requesting that our Government **commit and include the \$25 Million in this year's budget** for Stage 3 work to begin and for completion during this next calendar year, as listed above.

We thank you again for the opportunity to participate in these 2023 Pre-Budget Deliberation processes and trust you will find our listed concerns and recommendations to be of valid interest for our government to act on in support of our Windsor-Essex Acute Care hospital project.

Regards, On behalf of Citizens for Healthcare Windsor Essex



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519-966-2073



William C. Smith -



Kathryn A. Hengl -

Attachments:

- January 23, 2023 - 2023 Ontario Pre-Budget Consultation Presentation Notes – MOF - Kathryn A. Hengl
- January 16, 2023 - 2023 Ontario Pre-Budget Consultation Presentation Notes - MOF - Karl P. Straky Sr
- February 11, 2022 – Ontario 2022 Budget Consultation Submissions Document – MOF - William C. Smith

Citizens for Healthcare – Windsor-Essex