

FINAL PRESENTATION NOTES

2023 Ontario Budget Consultation Meeting January 23, 2023 Ministry of Finance

Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Location – Windsor, Ontario – January 23, 2023, 4pm to 5pm

Citizens for Healthcare presentation -- *Kathryn Hengl*

- Good afternoon. My name is Kathryn Hengl and I am here today representing Citizens for Healthcare Windsor Essex Region. Thank you for this opportunity to share our concerns and needs for immediate funding to bring to fruition the new Windsor-Essex Regional Hospital long planned for our county.
- Citizens for Healthcare is a community-based organization, founded in 2016 campaigning as an independent and non-partisan group of concerned citizens in support of the new Windsor-Essex Hospitals System plan, and we continue to participate in the key 5 Stage process, both locally and provincially to help get the new W/E Regional Acute Care Hospital built in a timely manner.
- Our new Hospital has been in the planning stages for over 10 years and is now only at Stage 2 of the Stage 5 process. The Hospital is not expected to be completed and opened before 2030, some 17 years since the announcement of a new Hospital was made in 2013.
- The recently completed functional program is 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 "total scope" of the project. If the Ministry could begin reviewing the functional program document now, with a goal to approving it in May of 2023, the hospital planning and design teams could effectively move right into Stage 3 planning 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 timeline.

- Now - - in order to facilitate the foregoing, it is imperative that **the \$25 Million required for Stage 3 work be committed in this year's budget.**
- And if we follow this same approach for Stages 4 & 5, it will shorten the schedule so as to permit construction of the Hospital to start by late 2025, and possibly complete and open the new Hospital earlier than 2030.
- Now, much has changed in our area since this process started which is why we must now move forward, as we have just suggested, in a timely fashion and with utmost diligence.
- Our County continues to grow in many different and varied areas. 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. Report that the 2021 census indicated that there 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.
- Opportunities abound as Windsor and Essex County experiences growing and emerging industries developing in our area now.
- We currently have significant growth in a number of areas that we wish to apprise you of:
 - Advanced manufacturing – This includes areas of Automotive Production, feeder plants, Connected Autonomous Vehicles (CAV), Automation, and Mobility Tool and Die, as demonstrated by the example of the new \$5Billion LG Energy Plant currently being built which will employ 2500, and there will be an additional Battery Feeder Plant set to employ 300 people locally
 - Next, the local Agricultural and Agri-tech industry continues to grow and expand beyond the current 100 food and beverage processing companies, 1500 growing operations and 15,000 employees.
 - Another growth area is Information and communication technologies (artificial intelligence, blockchain, cyber security and mobility)
 - Locally as well, the Health and life sciences industries of pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals continues to grow in our area.
 - And, additionally, Transportation and logistics (warehousing and cross-border technology) opportunities continue to expand locally as well.

- We will provide you with links to each of these areas of growth with our written submissions of this presentation so that you will see these examples of change in our area that suggest the urgent need to move the Hospital Planning process forward now.
- All of this in addition to the continued and blossoming construction of the new International Gordie Howe Bridge
- When all of these new industry and economic growth opportunities come together in a short period time, that will put enormous pressure on our aging healthcare system, and speaks directly to our need to move this Hospital planning and construction process forward, in the timely fashion we spoke of early, with utmost diligence.
- Our current century old healthcare facilities, (I'll repeat that.... Our currently century old healthcare facilities) cannot handle the existing demand for services and these anticipated and planned developments will only increase that demand for healthcare services.
- To meet this timeline and more importantly the needs of our community **we request this government to commit the \$25 Million in this year's budget** to take this project to the next Stage 3 and permit our new Hospital to be in service sooner.
- Again, please note that we will provide you with a written submission of this presentation and including links to substantiate the above noted areas of economic influences.
- We look forward to continuing to work with you to see this come to fruition, but first we need the \$25 Million in this year's budget for Stage 3.

Thank – you very much.

Kathryn A. Hengl
Citizens for Healthcare Windsor-Essex