

**FINAL PRESENTATION NOTES**  
**2023 Ontario Pre-Budget Consultation Meeting January 16, 2023**  
**Ministry of Finance**

MPP Rick Myers, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance, is hosting community budget consultations to hear directly from the people of Ontario.

*"As Ontario's government prepares the 2023 Ontario Budget, we invite you to share your ideas on how the government can continue to build a stronger Ontario for families, workers, businesses and communities."*

**Location - Windsor Ontario - January 16, 2023 - 10:00 AM - 01:00 PM**

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**Citizens for Healthcare presentation -- Karl P. Straky Sr.**

- Good morning. My name is Karl Straky and I am here today representing Citizens for Healthcare Windsor Essex and we thank you for the opportunity to again participate and speak at these Budget Deliberation Hearings, which we have done for the past 4 years and as is related to today's agenda, on the subject "how our government can address shortcomings within our region to build a stronger future environment for both our existing and future families, workers, businesses" and to assure modern healthcare facilities and services are in place to support the building of a stronger environment."
- Citizens for Healthcare is a community-based organization, founded in 2016 campaigning as an independent and non-partisan group of over 1000 concerned citizens in support of the new Windsor-Essex Hospitals System plan and where 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.
- Our new W/E Regional Acute Care Hospital has been in the planning stages for over 10 years and is now only at Stage 2 of the Stage 5 process and where the hospital is not expected to be completed and opened before 2030, some 17 years from when the process started in 2013.

- Our Windsor-Essex community has been struggling for years in this area with century old facilities and aged healthcare protocols and procedures, and now with the expansion of future electric vehicles and battery production facilities coming to our area including the new regional \$5 Billion LG Energy Automotive Battery plant to open in 2025, employing some 2500 new workers and along with the influx of their dependants and new immigrants moving to our area, will further deteriorate our local Healthcare System's ability to serve the needs of our most vulnerable citizens.
- For our Windsor-Essex region to be better prepared for this, it is our recommendation that an immediate action plan be put in place to speed up and shorten the hospital planning process to first include the necessary budget funding of \$25M in this Spring budget for Stage 3 work to start and to be completed during this 2023 calendar year.
- The recently completed functional program for the new hospital, 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, therefore defining the "total scope" of the project.
- To shorten the process and if the Ministry could begin reviewing the functional program documents now, with the goal of approving it in May 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 timelines for these Stages.
- And in addition, if a similar handoff approach was applied for Stages 4 & 5 planning, including pre construction scheduling and planning, we could further reduce the overall timelines to get our new hospital built sooner than 2030 and perhaps by the end of 2028.
- *This would significantly improve our efforts for building a stronger environment for our families, workers, businesses and community.*
- Thank you again for allowing us to participate in this Budget Deliberation Meeting and we will be sending a more detailed set of written submission documents in support of the above.

Regards

Karl P.Straky Sr.  
*Citizens for Healthcare Windsor-Essex*