

February 9, 2023

To: The Hon. Sylvia Jones – Ontario Minister of Health/Deputy Premier

Cc: The Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy – Ontario Minister of Finance  
David Musyj – President and CEO, Windsor Regional Hospital  
Drew Dilkens – Mayor – City of Windsor

Cc: Robin Martin - Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health  
Andrew Dowie - MPP Windsor-Tecumseh  
Lisa Gretzky - MPP Windsor West  
Trevor Jones - MPP Chatham-Kent-Leamington  
Anthony Leardi - MPP Essex

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

**Re: 2023 Ontario Pre-Budget Consultations Meetings  
Citizens for Healthcare Windsor-Essex Submissions**

**Re: Windsor - Essex Acute Care Hospital Plan  
Project Management Team - Stage 2 Submissions Timelines**

Dear Hon. Sylvia Jones

My name is Karl Straky Sr. representing Citizens for Healthcare Windsor-Essex a community based organization, who has been involved in the new Windsor-Essex Hospitals System planning process since 2016 supporting the development and construction for the new Windsor Essex Acute Care Hospital.

We solicited your continued support for our new WE hospital system during our brief introductory discussion held at Mayor Drew Dilkens September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meet Ontario's new Minister of Health and Deputy Minister Event.

As a community based organization, we have worked in collaboration with the Windsor Essex Hospitals System Plan Steering Committee, the Hospital Planners and with other Ontario government officials. I am writing this letter as a follow up to our enclosed 2023 Ontario Budget Submissions and ask for your attention to review the specific section addressing the prioritization of the process timelines for Stage 2 submissions and Stages 3, 4 and 5 planning to assure that the new Acute Care Hospital will be built and opened no later than 2030 and perhaps as early as 2028 as follows:

*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 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.

As you are well aware of the anticipated further growth with new emerging industries for our region, 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 in providing basic care for our regional population.

We are very concerned about the possibility of a 5 year gap between the 2025 opening date for the new \$5B LG Energy Automotive Battery plant currently under construction and the forecasted 2030 new hospital completion and opening date as outlined in the *Citizens for Healthcare* attached "2023 Budget Consultations" submission document.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to your positive review of our concerns for our Windsor Essex region and if there is any additional support or information you might need, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely, On behalf of *Citizens for Healthcare Windsor Essex*,

Thank you.



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519-966-2073



William C. Smith -



Kathryn A. Hengl -