

February 26th, 2024

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

Cc: The Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy – Ontario Minister of Finance
Rick Byers - Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance
Dawn Gallagher Murphy - 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: **2024 MOF Budget Deliberation Submissions - Request for Information
Windsor - Essex Acute Care Hospital Plan project.
Stage 3 (Preliminary Design – Output Specifications) Funding Request**

Dear Hon. Sylvia Jones

My name is Karl Straky Sr., representing Citizens for Healthcare - Windsor Essex, and I am writing as a follow up to our recent January 25th, MOF 2024 Budget Submission Documents to the Minister of Finance with copies addressed to yourself as Ontario Minister of Health/Deputy Premier, for your review and follow up to the specific issues related to the current status of the Stage 3 (Preliminary Design – Output Specifications) Funding Request for our new Windsor-Essex Acute Care Hospital Project timelines as outlined below.

The immediate issue at hand is our concern for the timing and completion of the Stage 3 work, projected for this May 2024, as listed in our February 9th, 2023 Budget Submission letter (copy attached) with the reported completion and submission of Stage 2 work to the Ministry of Health in late April 2023, allowing the Stage 3 work to begin.

There are several factors as outlined in our January 25th MOF Submission documents that we ask for your review, attention and response.

We first thank you for your continued support for moving our new Windsor-Essex Hospitals Systems plans forward, as we briefly discussed during your first September 2022, Windsor Mayor Drew Dilken's meet Ontario's new Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Event here in Windsor, and your more recent support through our local MPP's and Andrew Dowie, assuring us that things are on track with planned shovels in the ground by mid 2026.

We also thank the Minister of Finance, for the opportunity to again participate in the Ontario MOF 2024 Budget Consultation process to share our ideas on "how our government can address shortcomings within our region to build a stronger future environment for our existing and future families, workers, and businesses", and 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"

Citizens for Healthcare is a community based organization, campaigning as an independent and non-partisan group of concerned local citizens in support of the new Windsor-Essex Hospitals System Plan.

Starting in early 2016, our initial focus was on Stage 2 funding for the 5 Stage planning process which had stalled for some time. Through our collective efforts, working in concert with both the local hospital planners and the provincial budget deliberation process, in the March 24th, 2021 Ontario Budget, \$9.8M funding was approved in support of ongoing planning for the new Windsor Essex Acute Care Hospital and on October 18, 2021 the funds were released to restart Stage 2 planning work.

On January 24th, 2022, Stage 2 planning work was started by the new Windsor Regional Acute Care Hospital Planning Team with completion during March 2023.

On May 1, 2023, the Windsor Regional Hospital Team submitted their final Stage 2 planning report to the Ministry of Health, for Stage 3 planning work to begin with a planned completion date of May 1st, 2024.

Based on the Ontario government's 5 Stage Capital Planning Process for funding, there was an additional \$25M identified for Stage 3 work, that was to be announced in the 2023 Spring budget and as was outlined in our written submission letter to the Minister of Finance, 2023 Ontario MOF Budget Submission Document, dated February 7th, 2023. No announcements were made.

Based on the above review, and with some 9 months passed, we are asking for confirmation on the actual timelines for the completion of the various steps including Stage 3 work (of the original 5 Stage planning process).

More specifically in reference to the January 2024 Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital Project Timeline Report, shown below, under STAGE 2 – Detailed Planning, the term **(Pending review of Stage 1.3 submission)**, which is in effect the actual (Stage 2) report that the Windsor Regional Hospital team submitted on May 1, 2023, for the Ministry of Health, to start Stage 3 work with a scheduled completion date by May 1st, 2024.

January 2024 Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital Project Timeline Report



Based on the above, following is our specific list of questions for the Minister of Health's review and response.

- Could the Minister please provide the current status for the Ontario government's 5 Stage Capital Planning Process, where an additional \$25M was identified for Stage 3 work, in the previous government's MOF Dwight Duncan 2012 report, that would be available upon completion of Stage 2 work on May 1, 2023, as identified in the Citizens for Healthcare 2023 Ontario Pre-Budget Deliberation Submission letters dated February 7th 2023 and February 9th, 2023.
- Could the Minister please provide the current status of the Stage 2 Planning Report submitted by the Windsor-Essex Acute Care Hospital Planning Team on May 1, 2023 to the MOHLTC to proceed with Stage 3 work, as identified in the Citizens for Healthcare 2023 Ontario Pre-Budget Deliberation Submission letters dated February 7th 2023 and February 9th, 2023?
- Could the Minister please provide the current status for Stage 2 Detailed Planning as identified in the January 2024 Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital Project Timeline Report (shown on page 2 above), with clarification in reference to the following categories:
 - (Pending review of Stage 1.3 submission)?
 - Indicative Schematic Design?
 - Functional Output Specifications?
- Could the Minister's please provide the current status for Stage 3 work that was to begin on May 1, 2023, as identified in the Citizens for Healthcare 2023 Ontario Pre-Budget Deliberation Submission letters to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Health dated February 7th, 2023 & February 9th, 2023?
- Could the Minister please provide the current status, regarding the Infrastructure Ontario – December 2023 Market Update Report for the new Windsor Regional Hospital – New Windsor Essex Regional Hospital timelines for:
 - Issuing & Completion of the RFQ during Jan-Mar 2025.
 - Issuing & Completion of the RFP during Jul-Sep 2025.
 - Contract Execution during Jul-September 2026.
 - Construction Time: Based on a 2030 opening date, the construction time, would be 4 years.
 - Based on the above, what is the realistic time for when our new Windsor-Essex Acute Care hospital will be opened? 2031? (Reference: South Niagara Hospital Feb 21st, 2023 – report – “will take 5 years to build”)

Windsor is on the precipice of a new beginning, thanks in great part to the assistance of your government. We have, as you know, a new battery factory and a great deal of related investments, the widening of Highway 3, our new bridge and new and substantial investments from Stellantis. Our new hospital is a critical piece of our community's renewal and growth. While we recognize a new hospital cannot be built overnight there is a growing skepticism in the community that the hospital will be built in a timely fashion.

Our questions are intended to assure our community that this government remains committed to Windsor and Essex County and to the timely construction of our new hospital.

Regards, On behalf of *Citizens for Healthcare Windsor - Essex*



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William C. Smith

Kathryn A. Hangl

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