

January 31, 2025

To: The Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy - 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. Doug Ford – Premier of Ontario
The Hon. Sylvia Jones - Minister of Health/Deputy Premier
The Hon. Kinga Surma – Minister of Infrastructure

Cc: Hamid Zee – Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance
Steve Clark - Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier
Anthony Leardi - MPP Essex / Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health
Andrew Dowie - MPP Windsor-Tecumseh
Lisa Gretzky - MPP Windsor West
Trevor Jones - MPP Chatham-Kent-Leamington

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

Re: **January 31, 2025 MOF Pre-Budget Deliberation Submissions Document**
Ontario Pre-Budget Consultations Windsor - Essex
Windsor - Essex Acute Care Hospital Plan project.

Dear: Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy:

We thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Ontario MOF 2025 Budget Consultation process, and to share our ideas on our region's most pressing challenges such to "make life more liveable, healthier and affordable" by creating a better living environment.

Our areas most critical and immediate needs are to ensure modern healthcare facilities and services are in place to support the building of such a stronger environment. We need your continued commitment to make this happen!

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

Achieving these goals has been a challenge since early 2010, when the previous government initially approved a new regional Acute Care Hospitals systems plan for our region and where in 2018, with your new government’s initiatives, significant progress was made for moving our hospital systems plan forward toward the final stages of the process. We need your government’s continued support for the planning and final construction of our new Windsor-Essex Acute Care Hospital, to get the shovel in the ground by mid 2026, so we can realize a final construction and opening date by early 2030.

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, have participated in the last four budget deliberation cycles, with both the new Windsor-Essex Acute Care Hospital Planners and Ontario Government officials.

As a follow up of this year’s MOF 2025 Budget Deliberation process, our Citizens for Healthcare organization participated in the Ministry of Finance discussions on Monday, January 27th, 2025. We thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our expectations and concerns for our government’s continued plans for our new Windsor- Essex Regional Acute Care Hospital, and to follow the process schedule as outlined in the June 2024 infrastructure Ontario Market Update Report listing the Contract Execution date during July – Sept 2026.

In our written submission letters for the 2023 Ontario MOF Budget Submission Document, dated February 7th, 2023, and for the 2024 Ontario MOF Budget Submission Document, dated January 25th, 2024, we requested the need for this government to commit to the additional funding (\$25M identified) for Stage 2 to allow the project to move forward in a timely manner.

January 2024 Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital Project Timelines Report



With this commitment as we understand, funds would continue to be available and flow on this project as needed. Timing for this funding is critical to ensure that the process for our new Acute Care Hospital Plan stays on track and on time, as stated by Premier Ford in an article in The Windsor Star, September 17th, 2024 “Construction on a new Windsor-Essex acute care hospital could begin ahead of schedule” and as also recognized in the Windsor Star in the statement published from Windsor Regional Hospital on December 21st, 2024 – “WRH is on track to have shovels in the ground for the new state-of-the-art acute care hospital by 2026, if not sooner.”

Following is a copy of our Citizens for Healthcare -Ministry of Finance 2025 Budget Consultation Presentation given on January 27th, 2025, in Windsor, Ontario.

Good Afternoon, my name is William C. Smith and I am here representing Citizens for Healthcare of Windsor-Essex and we thank you for the opportunity to participate this afternoon to share our ideas and questions.

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 as well as participating in the last four budget deliberation cycles, with both the Windsor/ Essex Acute Care Hospital Planners and Ontario Government officials.

So we are here today to ensure that the process for our new Acute Care Hospital Plan stays on track and on time so that the shovels are in the ground in 2026 or if not sooner, as stated in a statement published from Windsor Regional Hospital on December 21st, 2024.

We acknowledge that this project has now been separated into two segments with the first being the opening of tenders in December 2024.

To that end we are seeking the following information:

1. ***CONFIRMATION*** of the initial stage tender opening on December 19th, 2024 (which includes a parking garage; a training administration centre and additional infrastructure to support future phases of the build) took place and will this tender close at the end of January 2025?
2. ***QUESTION FOR THE MINISTER:*** What is the time line following that for review of RFPs received and selection and letting of a contract for this initial stage?

That leaves the next step to be the RFQ for the remainder of the project, followed by the RFP with both of those stages being completed by the end of 2025:

1. ***QUESTION FOR THE MINISTER:*** Is the issuing of the RFQ still on track for April to June 2025 followed by the RFP's timeframe of October to December 2025 as is published in the June 2024 Ontario Infrastructure Market Update Report? Can the Minister also confirm that this will take place during this time schedule?

Last year when we submitted our written MOF (Ministry of Finance) Budget Deliberation Submission Document, dated January 25th, 2024, we asked for the Minister to provide the status of the \$25 Million funding request for the Stage 2 Detailed Planning of the project? We still do not have an answer, so we are asking that same question again:

QUESTION FOR THE MINISTER: What is the status of the \$25 Million Dollar funding request? (for Stage 2 Detailed Planning Process on this project?)

We also asked for an update regarding the current status of this project from the Infrastructure Ontario 2023 Market Report, we did not receive a response.

However, in reviewing the June 2024 Infrastructure Ontario Market Update we note that dates, while still in 2025 for the RFQ and RFP are delayed a few months, *the contract execution remains July -September 2026.*

QUESTION FOR THE MINISTER: *Can the Minister confirm that those dates are accurate and that the contract execution WILL NOT be jeopardized by the delay in the RFQ and RFP extended dates?*

On behalf of Citizens for Healthcare, we thank you for your time and once again for the opportunity to participate in this Pre-Budget Deliberation Process.

We are still here asking the same questions and trust you will find our concerns and ideas to be of valid interest for our government to act on in support of the Windsor-Essex Acute Care Hospital Project.

On behalf of CITIZENS for HEALTHCARE
William C. Smith

We thank you again for the opportunity to participate in these 2025 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*



Karl P. Straky Sr -



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