

Town Hall- Budget 2011

June 24, 2011

On March 3, 2011 I met with all of you and discussed the changes that had to be made to the hospital's operations in order to ensure that we had a balanced budget for 2011-2012 fiscal year.

These changes followed a detailed and inclusive process that started five months previously.

Our stated goal and the goal we achieved was to:

Save patient services and save hospital jobs.

As you might recall we had projected that for the 2011-2012 budget we had to find \$6.2 million in savings to offset the difference between what we were anticipating for funding and what we projected our expenses would increase by for that same period.

A large part of that difference was projecting what the arbitration awards would be for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

One of the awards we were anticipating receiving was the one involving the Ontario Nurses' Association. Since we employ close to 1000 registered nurses the impact of this award was going to be substantial.

A couple weeks ago the award involving ONA was rendered. Even though it came in an award it was clear from its face and the comments of the parties involved that it was a mutually agreed upon settlement that was embodied into an award.

The settlement called for an approximate 1% bonus payment for the next two years and then a 2.75% increase to the base in year three.

Although it was not a zero-zero settlement/award as mandated by the Provincial Government and as all non-union staff have been living under for four years it was far better than the other awards that have been rendered lately and clearly more in-line with the economic realities facing our patients – our community – our ultimate bosses – the taxpayer.

I publicly commended the leadership shown by the Ontario Nurses Association in agreeing to this settlement. It truly shows their leadership, dedication and appreciation of what the economic realities of that world is facing. It took guts and courage and I need to personally thank them for this agreement.

As a result of this better than anticipated agreement I asked our Board of Directors to revisit the changes that were approved in the 2011-2012 budget.

One of the changes that is about to be implemented is the reduction of hours of operation of the Metropolitan cafeteria. As previously stated the cafeteria is subsidized on annual basis by hospital operations at a tune of \$500,000. In other words, its expenses are greater than revenue by \$500,000 per annum.

After looking at all of the changes that were made to the 2011-2012 budget the Board of Directors have agreed to defer any changes to the Metropolitan Campus cafeteria.

The deferral is a direct result of the leadership shown by the Ontario Nurses Association during this most recent collective bargaining session.

The Board of Directors will continue to monitor awards and demands of the other bargaining agents of Windsor Regional Hospital and revisit this decision if future demands/awards involving other bargaining groups are not in line with that of ONA. The board is hopeful that they will follow the trend set by ONA so that we will be able to maintain the deferral and not have to reduce the cafeteria hours.

I can inform you that late last week the Ontario Public Service employee's union followed ONA's lead and agreed to a similar deal as did ONA. We are currently looking at the details of the agreement and will be approaching our local OPESEU to discuss its application to Windsor Regional Hospital.

We will continue with the other changes approved by the Board of Directors. Some of them have already been implemented and others, including parking changes will continue as planned in order to better serve our patients and families.

Again, i want to thank the Ontario Nurses Association for the leadership they showed and also our Board of Directors for their leadership in revisiting their decision and showing the leadership themselves in agreeing to defer the closure of the Met cafeteria.

I want to further our celebration here today.

If you recall back in 2007 when i was appointed CEO our HSMR – hospital standardized mortality ratio was 149. Last month in my monthly report I informed all of you that our HSMR for this past fiscal year was 81.

It is 81 because of all of you. So I thought it was a great time to have a small celebration and share some cake, coffee and tea with each other.

There is a great quote I heard that said “celebrate what you would like to see more of”. I cannot say it better than that.

Thank you for all you do.