

To: The Hon. Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

CC: David Musyj, President and CEO, Windsor Regional Hospital
Janice Kaffer, President and CEO, Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare
Martin Girash, Chair, Erie St. Clair LHIN

From: Drew Dilkens, Mayor, City of Windsor
Tom Bain, Warden, County of Essex
Taras Natyshak, MPP, Essex
Percy Hatfield, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh
Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor West

Mon., Jan. 25, 2016

Dear Minister Hoskins,

Three years ago, your predecessor, the Hon. Deb Matthews, approved an initial planning grant for the hospitals serving Windsor and Essex County to begin the process of developing a bold new vision for hospital care in our region.

Since that time hundreds of dedicated professionals, volunteers and local leaders have engaged our communities in formulating a vision that aims to serve our region for decades to come.

The consensus remains clear: the nearly 400,000 residents of Windsor and Essex County need, and deserve, modernized health care infrastructure that embraces the best of new hospital technology, state-of-the-art facilities, and modern design, capable of servicing our entire region.

Most of our existing hospital infrastructure is decades old. Needed investments in the past 10 years have helped bridge this gap, but our facilities have not kept pace with modern and new capabilities seen in Ontario hospitals that have been granted new construction investments over the past decade.

Only a quarter of our hospital patient rooms are private, far off the 80% mark seen in new hospitals today, reducing privacy for patients while increasing the risk of infection. Our aging infrastructure leaves little room on patient floor hallways to properly store the life-saving equipment our patients rely on, and to best accommodate the workplace needs of present day professionals. Our campus architecture built for a health care era of the past falls well short of the best new hospital designs that expedite a critical patient's journey from the emergency room to an operating room.

Our thousands of dedicated health care professionals deserve to work in facilities equipped with the latest concepts that remove remaining structural barriers they must surpass to continue providing the best and safest care possible for our patients.

Our patients deserve the dignity of being cared for in new facilities that make their visit or prolonged stay as comforting and welcoming as they can possibly be.

Dozens of new hospitals have been constructed over the past 15 years - involving billions of dollars in investments that lifted much of our provincial health care infrastructure out of risk of decay.

As Canadians, we hold our public health care system as a treasure. As citizens, we expect that a health care experience in one jurisdiction should be as close as possible to an experience in any other. As the years go by, however, we know that our hospitals are falling further behind the standard enjoyed in dozens of other Ontario communities.

Windsor and Essex County taxpayers have paid their contributions to support new hospital investments throughout the province, along with all other Ontarians. It's now time for all Ontarians to help support needed investments in Windsor-Essex.

Our patients and front-line health care workers deserve nothing less.

We are ready.

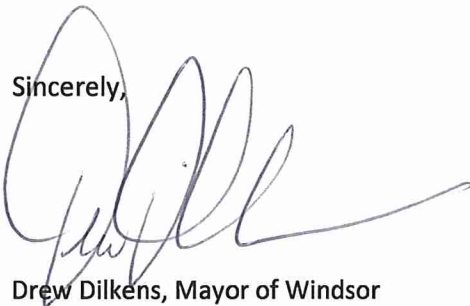
We have communicated with thousands of Windsor- Essex residents. So many have positively contributed to our development of a new and revitalized health care system, and their input and vision is reflected in the bold and exciting Stage 1 plan we submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for review. We, along with the hospitals, are committed to continuing the community consultation as we move through the capital planning process.

We're ready to move to the next stage of this important process.


We, the elected municipal and provincial leaders of our region, are unified in our collective support for this project which is vital to the future of health care in Windsor and Essex County.

We look forward to working together to see this vision become reality. Please help us get to Stage 2 of the planning process now.

Sincerely,



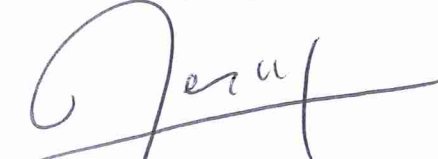
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