



THE UNITED CHURCH DOWNTOWN MISSION OF WINDSOR INC.  
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Registered Canadian Charitable Organization No. 11926 0420 RP0001

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To: The Honourable Eric Hoskins  
Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

From: Ron Dunn  
Executive Director  
The Downtown Mission  
Windsor, ON

November 24, 2016

RE: PROPOSED NEW HOSPITAL SYSTEM FOR WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY

Dear Minister Hoskins,

After taking the time to review the proposal submitted to you for a new hospital system to serve our regional community, I wanted to express my support for the project in its entirety, with a hope that it receives, as soon as possible, a government commitment to move to the next stage of planning.

As CEO/Executive Director of The Downtown Mission, a Christian, faith-based, registered not-for-profit organization with a focus on serving and advocating for those who struggle with poverty and homelessness, I reviewed this proposal while keeping the hundreds of men, women and children we serve every day at the top of my mind.

If the plan consisted of just one element, the new hospital to replace both acute care sites (Windsor Regional Hospital's current Metropolitan and Ouellette campuses), I would question whether it would meet the needs of citizens throughout Windsor, in particular those we see at The Downtown Mission each and every day, who represent some of our community's most vulnerable and marginalized individuals.

I was delighted to learn that the project entails so much more than just a fancy new acute care site. According to the extensive materials posted at [windsorhospitals.ca](http://windsorhospitals.ca), the project identifies some \$300 million in investment to the city's core, which represents much needed new health care infrastructure.

Having grown up in the west end of Windsor, I can appreciate that the Urgent Care Centre to be situated at the former Grace Hospital site will be an ideal addition to the neighbourhood. This can represent a great alternative to the Emergency Department since many of our clients too often rely on Windsor Regional Hospital's Ouellette campus ED as their first point of patient care. With this plan, there is opportunity for these same patients to access care more quickly at the Urgent Care Centre, staffed and equipped much like the current ED at Ouellette, with primary care on site as well through the relocation of the Windsor Family Health Team.

Also, the Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare plans for the Ouellette Ave. property with its Transitional Stability Centre should provide much needed mental health and addictions services to some of our guest struggling with these concerns, in a centre where they are better served than in the ED. It's also just a short walk from the Downtown Mission property and, in fact, our new Wellness Centre at 875 Ouellette Ave., which will be fully operational soon, will be just "kitty corner" from the redeveloped Ouellette site which will include Chronic Disease Management programs for patients. I am looking forward to future conversations locally about what other programs and services could be located at the Ouellette site, as well as future discussions on a vision for Windsor Regional Hospital's Metropolitan campus once it is vacated.

Overall, I see opportunities to replenish the west end with the Urgent Care Centre, Ouellette Ave. with chronic care and mental health and addictions programs and other community services, and the grounds where Met currently stands that could represent a significant revitalization for the neighbourhood around the current campus. Further, the planned expansion of Hotel-Dieu Grace's current west end campus will benefit both inpatients and outpatients with the addition of diagnostic services and a dialysis program.

Please assist our community with moving this project forward to the next stage in the process to help make this vision a reality. The vulnerable citizens that we serve need this plan to move forward. I recognize as CEO of my organization that change is difficult, some in our community are opposed. Please don't allow the few voices of negativity hinder the progress our region so desperately needs.

Sincerely,

Ron Dunn  
CEO/Executive Director, The Downtown Mission