



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

April 26, 2016

Dear Minister Hoskins,

In January, we, the elected municipal leaders of the City of Windsor and the County of Essex, sent you a letter (attached) which outlined our collective support alongside our three local Members of Provincial Parliament for a new vision for health care infrastructure in our community.

As you are aware, the proposal by Windsor Regional Hospital and Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare on a hospital care system across the Windsor-Essex region has submitted its 1A and 1B stage proposals for the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Capital Planning Branch.

One of the important requirements to move this important project to Stage 2 is assurance of community commitment, including approval of steps necessary to raise the local 10 per cent contribution to the overall cost of the project.

That assurance has been realized this week, with the overwhelming approval by both City and County Councils on an agreed upon cost-sharing plan to raise the required 10 per cent contribution!

We are proud that our elected leaders and administrators from the City of Windsor and County of Essex have been able to reach consensus for these community support measures.

The message from our community is clear: **WE ARE READY** to move to the next phase of this capital planning project that will serve our region for decades to come.

This culmination of our Stage 1A and 1B proposals along with municipal approvals for the local share contribution follows three years of planning and community engagement by hundreds of dedicated professionals, volunteers and local leaders, supported by an initial planning grant from your predecessor, the Hon. Deb Matthews.

As we noted in our January letter, the benefits of this new vision for Windsor-Essex includes some of the following benefits:

- State-of-the-art facilities to serve the nearly 400,000 residents of Windsor and Essex County who need, and deserve, modernized health care infrastructure that embraces the best of new hospital technology;

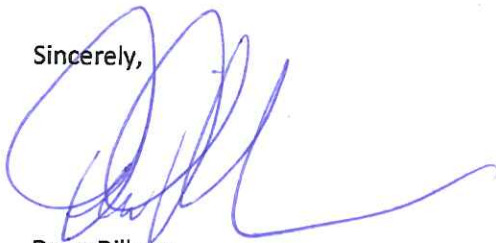
- Necessary replacement of existing hospital infrastructure, most of which is decades old and cannot keep pace with modern and new capabilities seen in Ontario hospitals that have been granted new construction investments over the past decade;
- A significant increase in the number of private rooms in our facilities, which offers improved ability to prevent hospital-acquired infections and patient privacy and dignity. (Currently, only a quarter of our hospital patient rooms are private, far off the 80% mark seen in new hospitals today);
- Sufficient space to remove remaining structural barriers staff must surpass to continue providing the best and safest care possible for our patients. (Currently, 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).

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.

WE ARE READY in Windsor-Essex to join the list of new hospitals that have revamped hospital infrastructure in our great province.

We are ready to speak with you at any time about the need to move us to Stage 2 of the planning process as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Drew Dilkens
Mayor, City of Windsor



Tom Bain
Warden, County of Essex