



To: The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Hon. Christine Elliott, 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

From: Drew Dilkens, Mayor, City of Windsor
Tom Bain, Warden, County of Essex

August 14, 2018

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Elliott,

On behalf of the citizens of the City of Windsor and the County of Essex, we are pleased to send this letter to ask for your continued support for a new vision for much needed health care infrastructure improvements in our community.

As you are aware from discussions in our region during the recent provincial election campaign, the previous government approved, in the April 2017 Ontario budget, a commitment to move forward with the proposal by Windsor Regional Hospital and Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare to transform the hospital care system across the Windsor-Essex region. This marked the approval of our prior submission of our 1A and 1B stage proposals to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Capital Planning Branch. In addition, in December 2017, the project moved to Stage 2 of the capital planning process. During the election campaign, your party made it clear that it supported this project, and if anything, it should have happened sooner.

Just this week, the rezoning application to accommodate the hospital on a location selected following a lengthy, thorough and determined process, was approved by Windsor City Council.

Our local financial commitment for the project has been secured. One of the important requirements to move this project to Stage 2 is assurance of the community's commitment, including approval of steps necessary to raise the local 10 per cent contribution to the overall cost of the project. That assurance was realized in April 2016 with overwhelming approval by both City and County Councils on an agreed upon cost-sharing plan to raise the required 10 per cent contribution. The \$200 million local share is already being collected by the City and the County.

We are proud that elected leaders and administrators from the City of Windsor and County of Essex have reached a consensus for these community support measures.

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We have done everything we can to clear up any remaining obstacles to engaging fully in Stage 2 for this critical project. The message from our community is clear: WE ARE READY to move forward in a capital planning process that will serve our region for decades to come.

The benefits of this new vision for Windsor-Essex includes:

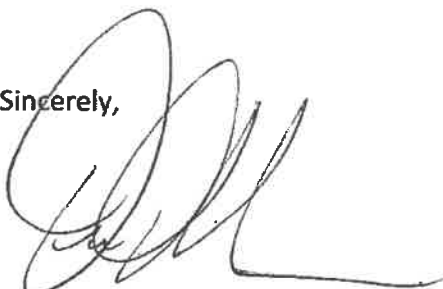
- State-of-the-art facilities to serve the nearly 400,000 residents of Windsor and Essex County who need, and deserve, modernized health care infrastructure that embraces the best of new hospital technology;
- Necessary replacement of existing hospital infrastructure, most of which is decades old and 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 overcome 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 - involving billions of dollars in investments - have been constructed over the past 15 years, lifting 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 through Stage 2 of the planning process as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Drew Dilkens
Mayor, City of Windsor



Tom Bain
Warden, County of Essex