



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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For immediate release

### **CREATING THE VISION FOR RESEARCH IN ERIE ST. CLAIR Steering Committee for new hospital system invites local researchers to share ideas**

WINDSOR - The Steering Committee overseeing the planning for a new Windsor-Essex Hospitals System, is inviting local researchers to help create a vision for health-related education and research in Windsor-Essex. The Steering Committee is hosting a visioning session on December 13, 2016 at the Fogolar Furlan Club, to map out the current state of research in the region and create a vision for the future. The results will help shape the new Windsor-Essex Hospitals System during the next planning stages.

“The current hospital infrastructure has limited space for clinical research and education. The opportunity to redesign the way hospital care is delivered opens the door for us to tap into the pockets of research, we have built collaboration right into the system,” says Windsor Regional Hospital President and CEO David Musyj, who Co-Chairs the Steering Committee. “This is a chance to think big and maximize this opportunity to position the region as a leader in medical research.”

From the beginning of this project, education and research have been among the main drivers. An expanded focus on clinical research strengthens the research and scholarship culture and puts Windsor-Essex in a better position to recruit and retain top physicians, professional healthcare staff and medical leaders.

This is the first of several sessions planned. The goal is to bring everyone together, take an inventory of all those currently involved in health-related research and explore different ways they can create synergies in the proposed new system. Attendants at the session will also look at how other municipalities like Mississauga, Thunder Bay and Sudbury have used the opportunity to build new hospitals in those areas to enhance research capabilities and collaborations.

This type of detailed, functional planning is typically part of later planning stages. However, the Steering Committee and research community want to start these discussions now, so they are ready to move forward when given the green light. The Steering Committee has completed Stage 1 of a five-stage planning process for the Windsor-Essex Hospitals System and is currently waiting for approval from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to proceed to the next step.

**The visioning session takes place on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at the Fogolar Furlan Club between 8 am – 12:00 pm. Members of the media are invited to attend any or all of the session. Participants will be available to provide interviews and highlights immediately following the event.**

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