



The Retired Teachers of Ontario District 7, Windsor-Essex

Dr. Eric Hoskins

**Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C4**

Dear Minister Hoskins:

As President of District 7, Windsor-Essex, of the Retired Teachers of Ontario, I am writing to you to express our support for the building of a Mega-Hospital in Windsor. I represent our 2330 members who are retired teachers and educational support personnel.

At a meeting of our District Executive on May 30, 2016, the members unanimously supported a motion to advertise by all means possible that a single site acute care facility was critical for our region.

We present the following reasons for our support:

- **Hundreds of millions of dollars will be required to redevelop existing infrastructure. Building a single site acute care facility is less costly than renovating the existing facilities.**
- **Acute care services are presently divided between two medium sized hospitals resulting in the fragmentation of services and ongoing challenges with patient transfers and patient flow across two sites. In addition, there are accessibility issues for patients, visitors and staff due to “land locked” locations and limited parking.**
- **We have to remember this facility will not be built tomorrow. It will take 7-10 years to complete the planning and construction. In the meantime, our current facilities will continue to become more and more antiquated compared to new hospital standards. We are planning for the future. Not only 7-10 years from now but 20, 30, 40 and 50 years from now.**
- **We don't just need a new hospital, we DESERVE a new hospital. This is an opportunity to upgrade to a state-of-the-art facility so patients, staff and the community can experience the benefits those in other municipalities already enjoy.**
- **Doing nothing is not an option – significant investments would be required to renovate and upgrade current facilities and leave us with the current inadequate footprint and landlocked properties**

I am sure you are aware that members of the Windsor City Council and Essex County Council voted to support a levy toward the cost of the project. We have thanked them for their strong leadership.

We understand that the process is now at Step 1 B, a critical time. We ask you, as Minister, to let the decision makers know we support this project and want to see the proposed Windsor-Essex Hospitals System project move forward. As residents of Windsor-Essex our 2330 members deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

**J.E. (Jim) Sparrow
President, District 7 Windsor-Essex
Retired Teachers of Ontario**