



Media Release

April 28, 2017

For immediate release

#WEareready ... #WEwereheard...#WErMovingForward!

Ontario budget confirms our Windsor-Essex Hospitals System project is a go!

WINDSOR – The Ontario government has given the green light for the Windsor-Essex Hospitals System proposal to move forward in the planning process— a key milestone that ensures it’s now just a matter of “when,” not “if” we are getting a new state-of-the-art hospital for our region! This is now a reality!

As a result of the budget presented Thursday, April 27, 2017, by Finance Minister Charles Sousa, the government has committed funding to cover planning costs for this important project to revitalize patient care for the Windsor-Essex community.

“What this means is that the decision makers heard loud and clear that Windsor-Essex supports this once-in-a-lifetime, desperately needed transformation of healthcare delivery for our region,” said Dave Cooke, co-chair of a Steering Committee of regional partners overseeing planning of this project.

A Stage 1 proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in July 2015. We will now move forward as part of the five-stage process before the needed infrastructure investments are open to patients.

The next Stage in the planning process, also referred to as the “Functional Program,” is a very detailed description of how the new system will operate. It is the primary document used to develop the building design for the new hospital and will also include a detailed description of how programs and services will function and examine staffing and equipment needs.

Due to the magnitude of the planning that needs to be done it will still be years before there is a “shovel in the ground.”

“We are still 7-10 years away from occupancy of the first components of the plan,” said David Musyj, President and CEO, Windsor Regional Hospital and Steering Committee co-chair.

“However, some of the most important work is done in the upcoming stages to make sure we get it right when it comes to planning how the hospitals will operate and what is required to make them not only supportive of today’s patient population, but for generations to come.”

Our Steering Committee members and our community supporters – including both City and County councils and our local Members of Provincial Parliament - recognize that Windsor-Essex deserves this hospital healthcare proposal.

“This is the right plan for our region and one that will dramatically improve the ability of our hard working clinical staff and medical professionals to deliver the best care possible in a modernized environment for patients at both the acute and post-acute facilities,” said Janice Kaffer, President and CEO, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare.

The Steering Committee continues to encourage our community to stay informed about the project and get even more involved moving forward, including through opportunities to view and comment on draft programming and designs that will form the new base of our hospital healthcare system for generations to come.

If you are interested in taking an active role in the next stages of planning please go to www.windsorhospitals.ca and register your name and email address.

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