



## NEWS RELEASE

Ted Arnott, MPP  
Wellington - Halton Hills

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Arnott questions Premier on local hospital projects**

(Queen's Park) – Hospital projects were again the subject of discussion today in the Ontario Legislature. In a question to Premier Dalton McGuinty, Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott asked when the government would release its long-promised 10-year plan for hospital capital projects.

“Hospitals need to know where they are on the list so that they can plan their projects,” said Mr. Arnott in the Legislature. He again informed MPPs that the Groves Hospital needs permission from the Minister of Health to move forward to the next stage of planning for its new hospital, and that the Georgetown Hospital requires a small capital grant.

Today's debate came after the Minister of Health, Deb Matthews, yesterday repeated her view that MPPs are hospitals' best lobbyists. In reply to Mr. Arnott's constructive questioning—his second consecutive day posing questions on the issue—the Premier responded favourably.

“If [Mr. Arnott] has any specific advice with respect to his community, obviously, that's the kind of thing that we want to consider,” said the Premier.

When Question Period concluded, Mr. Arnott followed up by speaking personally with the Premier.

“Our conversation was very cordial,” reported Mr. Arnott. “It was a helpful opportunity to reiterate the importance of these projects to the people of our communities. I indicated that I would give him further information documenting our need.”

Last week, the Legislature debated Mr. Arnott's resolution on the issue. It called on the Minister of Health to immediately approve the planning grant requested by the Groves Memorial Community Hospital, and to seek approval for a small project capital grant for the Georgetown Hospital, allowing it to proceed with its needed emergency room addition and diagnostic imaging renovation project.

In spite of the Liberal majority voting to defeat Mr. Arnott's resolution, he has no intention of giving up.

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