



NEWS RELEASE

Ted Arnott, MPP
Wellington - Halton Hills

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 20, 2011

Arnott demands answers on hospitals in Wellington-Halton Hills

(Queen's Park) – Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott remains persistent in advocating for the Georgetown Hospital and the Groves Memorial Community Hospital. Yesterday in Question Period, he again demanded answers from the Minister of Health.

“The Council of the Town of Halton Hills needs an immediate answer on what support you'll extend for Georgetown Hospital,” Mr. Arnott asserted. “My Wellington county constituents are anticipating an announcement on the Groves project. When will the government do the right thing and approve our hospital projects, as my constituents deserve?”

Mr. Arnott is calling on the minister to announce a capital grant for the Georgetown Hospital renovation project, as well as the planning grant and approval for the Groves Memorial Community Hospital in Centre Wellington to move to the next stage of planning for its planned new facility.

“People are sick and tired of the Liberals’ repeated delays and excuses as to why the government couldn’t make an immediate announcement,” Mr. Arnott said later. “They certainly could move forward, but they’re choosing not to.”

Political considerations, Mr. Arnott suggested, could well be influencing that choice.

“I've said I didn't believe that the Liberals would be so miserable as to punish our communities by ignoring our hospital needs because of past voting patterns,” said Mr. Arnott in the Legislature. “I'm beginning to wonder if I gave the Liberal Party too much credit.”

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Attached: Ontario Hansard

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HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Ted Arnott: My question is for the Minister of Health. The government's budget papers indicate that she plans to spend more than \$2.5 billion on hospital infrastructure this year. My constituents in Wellington-Halton Hills deserve their fair share. When will the minister announce the capital grant for the Georgetown Hospital renovation project and when will she announce the planning grant and approval for the Groves Memorial Community Hospital in Centre Wellington to move to the next stage of planning for our new hospitals?

Hon. Deborah Matthews: Thank you to the member opposite for the question. I understand that Georgetown Hospital has submitted a proposal to expand their emergency department. The Minister of Infrastructure and my ministry and others are currently developing a 10-year plan so we can continue with building the infrastructure in this province.

I do understand why the member opposite might be a little antsy about this because if, by any chance, his government ends up in power after the next election, I think we'll see a screeching halt to any capital development whatsoever.

The Speaker (Hon. Steve Peters): Supplementary?

Mr. Ted Arnott: That is utter nonsense and the minister knows it. Excuses and political baffle-

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon. Steve Peters): Stop the clock. Members will please come to order. Minister, your seatmate wants to hear the question.

Continue.

Mr. Ted Arnott: We have made our case for these projects. I've raised our hospital issues time and time again in this House, as members know. I've said I didn't believe that the Liberals would be so miserable as to punish our communities by ignoring our hospital needs because of past voting patterns. I'm beginning to wonder if I gave the Liberal Party too much credit.

The council of the town of Halton Hills needs an immediate answer on what support you'll extend for Georgetown Hospital. My Wellington county constituents are anticipating an announcement on the Groves project. When will the government do the right thing and approve our hospital projects, as my constituents deserve?

Hon. Deborah Matthews: What I can tell you is that when we came to office in 2003, we inherited a disgraceful deficit when it came to our health care infrastructure. You know that, Speaker.

We are the party that, when we had the chance, started to build. We have built 18 brand new hospitals across this province-18 brand new hospitals. You're the party that closed hospitals. We have 100 major capital projects across this province and we intend to keep on building.

I think what you have to think hard about is whether you really want to be part of a party that wants to cut health care, because you cannot cut taxes without cutting health care. The first thing that will go, once you fire the nurses, is that you will close the hospitals. It's what you did before, and I would love you to stand up and say, "Keep on going," when it comes to building.