



Wellington-Halton Hills Provincial Riding Office  
Fergus, Ontario

August 16, 2011

The Hon. Deborah Matthews, MPP  
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
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PLEASE REPLY TO:  
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### **Open letter to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care**

Dear Minister:

On June 1, 2011, I wrote to you to request that you do your part, as Minister of Health, to allow Groves Memorial Community Hospital in Centre Wellington to move forward to the next stage of planning for a new hospital, and to approve the provincial planning grant that accompanies it. We ask you to recognize our need in Wellington so that we can move ahead with this important project.

Since June, you have seen fit to make hospital-related announcements serving Sudbury, London, Hawkesbury, Winchester, Brockville, Kawartha Lakes, Oakville, Vaughan, Barrie, Cambridge and Toronto. In light of your announcements for these communities, we in Wellington are questioning your Government's seeming lack of attention to our own health care needs and your commitment to meeting those needs.

My advocacy on behalf of Groves, as well as the people I'm privileged to represent, has been strong and sustained:

- Approaching you on numerous occasions to speak with you personally in the Ontario Legislature;
- Speaking with senior staff in your Ministry;
- Writing to you many times;
- Writing the Premier;
- Arranging meetings at Queen's Park;
- Speaking in the Legislature in Members' Statements;
- Asking questions in Question Period;
- Speaking about Georgetown Hospital's needs during debate on bills;
- Posing questions to you during public meetings of the Standing Committee on Estimates;
- Hosting MPP Christine Elliott, PC Health Critic, at the hospital on February 14, 2011;
- Making our hospitals the subject of my Private Member's Resolution, initiating a debate that would otherwise not have taken place;
- Raising public awareness through numerous public statements;

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Despite these initiatives, among others, you have yet to give us the go-ahead to support our project. Moreover, you have yet to let us know where we stand on your list of hospital infrastructure priorities or when we might expect to receive your go-ahead. In fact, we are still waiting for the specifics of your long-promised "10-year capital plan," identifying individual projects like ours. Your work on this plan should have been completed and, if it is complete, it certainly should not be kept under wraps for political reasons.


I am disappointed that you did not accept our invitation to come to Fergus to tour the existing Groves facility, so that you could see firsthand the challenges we face. You would also have seen the overwhelming community support for Groves. The Board of Directors, the Groves Hospital Volunteer Association, and generous contributors have contributed a great deal to our hospital. As the MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills, I have done everything I can do on this file.

I reiterate my unqualified support for Groves, and I urge you to recognize the need to build the future of health care in Wellington-Halton Hills. Furthermore, I remind you that Guelph MPP Liz Sandals and the Waterloo-Wellington Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) have expressed support for this project.

There are just 22 days remaining in your Government's term of office. Your window of opportunity is narrowing, but there is still time to do the right thing. Therefore we ask again: When are you coming to Fergus to make an announcement?

We look forward your positive response.

Sincerely



Ted Arnott, MPP  
Wellington-Halton Hills

TA:sy

- c: Ms. Meaghan Reid, Clerk, Township of Guelph/Eramosa
- Ms. Marion Morris, Clerk, Township of Centre Wellington
- Ms. Lori Heinbuch, CAO/Clerk, Township of Wellington North
- Ms. Patty Sinnamon, CAO/Clerk, Township of Mapleton
- Mr. Jerome Quenneville, CEO, Wellington Health Care Alliance
- Mr. Gord Feniak, Chair, Board Chair, Groves Memorial Community Hospital