



Wellington-Halton Hills Provincial Riding Office
Fergus, Ontario

August 16, 2011

The Hon. Deborah Matthews, MPP
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
80 Grosvenor Street
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Toronto ON M7A 2C4

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 support Georgetown Hospital's planned renovation project. We need this project, and we ask you to recognize our need in Halton Hills so that we can move ahead.

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 Halton Hills are questioning your Government's seeming lack of attention to our own health care needs and your commitment to meeting those needs.

When hospital officials informed me of the Georgetown project over a year ago, I immediately went to work on their behalf and in the best interests of the people we serve. My advocacy 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;
- Attending Town Council's meeting at which they supported the project; and
- Raising public awareness through numerous public statements.

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Despite these initiatives, among others, you have yet to make a financial commitment 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.

Halton Hills Town Council has already done its part by committing \$2.682 million to the project. The Hospital Board Foundation, the Volunteer Association, and generous contributors have likewise contributed their share. As MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills, I have done everything I can do on this file.

On behalf of the hospital, the Town has requested \$1.864 million from your Government in order to move ahead with this project. I reiterate my unqualified support for this request.

People are asking when the Province of Ontario will finally become a significant funding partner in this much-needed 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 Georgetown to make this announcement?

We look forward your positive response.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Arnott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ted Arnott, MPP
Wellington-Halton Hills

TA:sy

c: Ms. Suzanne Jones, Clerk, Town of Halton Hills
Mr. John Oliver, President and CEO, Halton Healthcare Services
Ms. Cindy McDonnell, Chief Operating Officer, Georgetown Hospital