



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario

June 1, 2011

The Hon. Deborah Matthews, MPP
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
80 Grosvenor Street
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
Toronto ON M7A 2C4

Hand-delivered to the Minister in the Ontario Legislature

Dear Minister:

On June 24, 2010, almost a year ago, the Georgetown Hospital informed me that they were planning a renovation project to better serve the community in the future. Immediately I went to work, advocating for the hospital. In the intervening months, I have done everything possible to advocate for the project, including:

- Approaching you on numerous occasions to speak with you personally;
- 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; and
- Raising public awareness through numerous public statements.

In addition to these initiatives, I have invited you repeatedly to visit Wellington-Halton Hills and tour the Georgetown Hospital. On February 24, 2011, I spoke in the House and again reiterated my invitation because I wanted you to tour the Hospital to see firsthand the need for this project.

In fact, I took the extra step in October of devoting a Private Member's resolution to the hospital issues in our riding, thus initiating a debate that would otherwise have not taken place. More recently, on May 24, 2011, I asked you questions in Question Period, calling for an immediate answer as to what support you would extend for Georgetown Hospital.

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I did so because I wanted to give you one final opportunity to make an announcement prior to the May 24 meeting of Halton Hills Town Council. At that meeting, which I was pleased to attend, Council made its decision to extend financial support to the hospital, and to what extent. Unanimously, Council determined it would support the hospital's project to the tune of \$2.682 million. For that decision, I commend them.

In order to move ahead with this much-needed project, we now need you to do your part to make the Province of Ontario a significant funding partner. **On behalf of the hospital, the Town is asking for \$1.864 million. I offer my unqualified support for this request.**

As we approach the fall election, I believe your Government will be making funding announcements within the next few weeks. As you do so, I again urge you to recognize this very important priority. You may also be aware that PC Leader Tim Hudak, on page 17 of *changebook*, our party's election platform, has committed to increase investments in our health care system every year, for the next four years. In the final year of those four years, the Government of Ontario would be investing \$6.1 billion more for health care compared to this year.

Council has done what it can do to support the project. The Hospital Board Foundation, the Volunteer Association, and generous contributors have likewise contributed their share. As the MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills, I have done everything I can do on this file. Now we are calling for you to step up to the plate.

We look forward to your announcement.

Sincerely



Ted Arnott, MPP
Wellington-Halton Hills

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