



February 3, 2023

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
College Park, 777 Bay St., 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Jones:

Re: Support for Advancing Lakeridge Health's Master Plan – Much Needed Investment in Durham Region

The Durham Business Alliance writes to highlight and support the essential work undertaken by Lakeridge Health to build Durham Region's new hospital and trauma centre.

In recent years we have become acutely aware of the astronomical and complex challenges faced by our healthcare system and their need for more resources. Accordingly, the Ontario Government's plan to invest in strengthening and emboldening our healthcare infrastructure is commendable and necessary.

Statistics clearly show that healthcare demands in the Durham Region are expected to rise even further due to substantial population increase. Durham Region currently does not have a trauma centre and is currently massively under-resourced for healthcare per capita.

In response to the growth in demand, a location for a new 600 bed acute care hospital and trauma centre has been identified after detailed and arduous assessments. The preferred site is located in Whitby, a 50-acre lot at Highway 407 and 412 and will service the Durham Region and surrounding areas.

To proceed to the next stage of the process, the Ministry of Health needs to advance the Master Plan and follow through on the vision for healthcare in Durham. In order to complete the hospital, it is integral that capital funding decisions prioritize this essential service in the next budget. Specifically, we ask the Planning Grant be awarded to Lakeridge Health in order to advance the project.

As the Durham Business Alliance, we have no doubt that this hospital will go a long way towards addressing the increasing and challenging healthcare demands in the Durham Region and providing our members the support and infrastructure they need to thrive. As



the Ministry carefully assesses our future public healthcare goals, we hope the people of Durham can rely on you to help strengthen and empower our region.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Andrew Scuse
President of the Board
Whitby Chamber of Commerce

Elizabeth Burley
President
Brock Board of Trade

Sheila Hall
Executive Director
Clarington Board of Trade

Jason King
Chief Executive Officer
Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce

Jim Norwood
President
Newcastle & District Chamber of
Commerce

Karey Anne Large
Executive Director
Scugog Chamber of Commerce

Rick Nihda
Executive Director
Uxbridge Chamber of Commerce

- cc. Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Long-Term Care
- Hon. Lorne Coe, Member of Provincial Parliament
- Regional Chair John Henry, Durham Region
- Her Worship Elizabeth Roy, The Corporation of the Township of Whitby