



April 14, 2023

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

***Re: Help us Build the Hospital and First Trauma Center in Durham Region***

Dear Minister Jones:

To support Durham Region's rapidly growing community, Lakeridge Health and many stakeholders established a Master Plan which includes the building of a Hospital and Trauma Centre in Whitby. Now, those efforts are stalled due to a lack of approval from the Ontario Government.

The Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) supports the Master Plan. Representing more than 650 businesses in Whitby and Durham Region, our organization wishes to highlight the desperate need for more healthcare services to support the community's growing population.

To illustrate the rapid changes, Durham Workforce Authority's 2023 Data Walk shows that between 2016 and 2021 (a mere five years) our region:

- Experienced 7.91% population growth;
- Is home to 4.9% of Ontario's residents; and
- Saw the percentage of residents who are 65 year or older increase 19.71%.

As the biggest chamber/board of trade in this dynamic and economically vital region, the WCC Board of Directors and Advocacy Committee members feel compelled to reach out to you on this matter. We are extremely disappointed that the hospital in Whitby, designated by Lakeridge Health, did not receive the support it so desperately needed in the recent provincial budget.

Lakeridge Health plans to build this hospital to serve the Region's aging and expanding population. The process to select Whitby included an Independent Expert Panel and Fairness Advisor appointed by the Board of Lakeridge Health's Site Selection Committee, based upon their substantial healthcare and real estate development experience.



The panelists also had knowledge of the Region, grounding their final recommendations on fact and experience. The process of selecting the hospital site was independent, transparent, and understandably expensive.

Those who proposed site locations and plans for the hospital came forward with significant research, reporting, and investment. Ultimately, the panel selected a centrally located 50-acre lot at Highways 407 and 412 to serve Durham Region and its surrounding areas.

To advance the building of the hospital, Lakeridge Health awaits the government's approval of its Planning Grant.

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, through the Durham Business Alliance (DBA) which represents eight Chambers and Boards of Trade and 2,500 businesses, we advocated for your government's support for the proposed Durham Region Hospital and Trauma Center. Following the release of the 2023 budget document, "Building a Strong Ontario" which omitted the Planning Grant, the DBA has written a follow-up letter to the government.

Our messages are consistent; By standing idle on the findings and recommendations of healthcare experts, and by delaying healthcare investments, our community's efforts to prosper and maintain a healthy quality of life are hindered. It denies Durham Region rightful access to crucial healthcare that our families and workers desperately require. We believe it is prudent for the government to reconsider and approve Lakeridge Health's request for a Planning Grant no later than the 2023 Fall Economic Statement.

We understand it could be as much as 10 years before this new hospital is open and the rate of growth across the entire region is too fast to continue to delay this process. It is urgently required to address service gaps and any further delay leaves our rapidly growing Region vulnerable as a result.

We thank you for your time and attention to this matter; your efforts to support this regional hospital will service Durham and its neighbouring communities (i.e., York).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Scuse', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Andrew Scuse  
President  
Whitby Chamber of Commerce



Attached: DBA Letters, dated February 3, 2023, and April 6, 2023.

CC:

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier  
Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance  
Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation  
Lorne Coe, MPP Whitby  
Todd J McCarthy, MPP Durham  
Jennifer K French, MPP Oshawa  
Patrice Barnes, MPP Ajax  
Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton Kawartha Lakes-Brock  
C Davis, President and CEO, Lakeridge Health  
John Henry, Durham Region Chair  
Shaun Collier, Mayor, Town of Ajax  
Adrian Foster, Mayor Municipality of Clarington  
Dan Carter, Mayor City of Oshawa  
Kevin Ashe, Mayor City of Pickering  
Wilma Wotten, Mayor Township of Scugog  
Walter Schummer, Mayor Township of Brock  
Dave Barton, Mayor Township of Uxbridge  
Elizabeth Roy, Mayor Town of Whitby