



February 1, 2021

Hon. Christine Elliott
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
777 Bay Street 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Elliott;

Please accept our sincere thanks to you and the Ontario government for the extraordinary leadership you have shown through the coronavirus pandemic. Your efforts continue to reap positive outcomes for people across the province.

Brant Community Healthcare System is proud to assist you in carrying out ministry priorities. We are also most proud of the awe-inspiring effort of our front-line health care providers, and of the coordinated local response put forward together with municipal, community and health care partners.

As you are aware, supervision ended at Brant Community Healthcare System on December 31, 2019. The new Board of Directors at BCHS continues to address one of the key recommendations contained in the Supervisor's final report related to urgent need for the redevelopment of the Brant Community Healthcare System.

Supervisor Bonnie Adamson identified the following:

There remains an urgent need to move forward with a full capital redevelopment of the very old Brantford site to create an appropriate physical environment for mental health, emergency care and other inpatients cared for at BCHS. The master planning process for the capital redevelopment is underway.

BCHS submitted an updated pre-capital submission to the Ministry of Health in February 2020. The development of the pre-capital submission was overseen and endorsed by members of the Master Planning Steering Committee as follows:

- BCHS Patient Representative
- Mayors of Brantford and Brant County
- Chiefs of Mississauga's of the Credit First Nations and Six Nations
- BCHS Board Chair
- Chair and Executive Director of BCHS Foundation
- Former MPP and Speaker of the House, MP Phil McColeman and MPP Will Bouma.

The Committee endorsed the pre-capital submission in January 2020 with a subsequent recommendation approved by the BCHS Board of Directors at its February 2020 meeting.

The pre-capital submission has been signed off by Ontario Health and, in September 2020, staff with the Ministry of Health Capital Branch indicated they had no further questions regarding the submission, and were awaiting Government direction related to prioritization.

There is strong community alignment and support for this project to move forward, however, BCHS has not yet received formal approval to move the project to its next stage of planning.

The COVID pandemic has highlighted the severe infrastructure deficits at BCHS, particularly in the Emergency Department and medical and surgical inpatient care areas of the hospital. There is an urgent need to move planning forward, we are requesting, respectfully, that you consider intervening to ensure BCHS is approved to move forward from the Pre-Capital Phase to Stage-1 of planning. This will require a planning grant estimated at \$3M. We have had several discussions with MPP Will Bouma and he is supportive of this meeting request.

We can say with confidence, this approval will come as welcome news to members of the BCHS Master Planning Steering Committee representing the Board and viewed positively by the citizens and communities served by BCHS, providing hope and excitement for those who work hard each day to provide exceptional care to the people we serve. This next step forward is very important to the community.

During the last two years, we have addressed the most significant safety issues related to the inpatient Mental Health Unit and are extremely grateful to the Government for support of this project.

Kindly note that, over the next week, BCHS will be submitting its Stage 3 plan for the redevelopment of the Emergency Department. Both the City of Brantford and Brant County have committed funding to support the Emergency Department Redevelopment Project, and the BCHS Foundation is well on its way to raising the necessary funds to ensure the local project contribution will be met.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this important request, and hope you will give every consideration to approving the BCHS redevelopment plan to move forward to Stage 1.

Thank you for your consideration, Minister.

Sincerely,



Paul Emerson, Board Chair



David McNeil, President and Chief Executive Officer

cc. Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Will Bouma, MPP Brantford-Brant