



February 24, 2022

Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Office Room 281 Legislative  
Building, Queens Park Toronto, ON  
M7A 1A1

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

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Elliott;

We are following up on a letter written to the Minister of Health on February 1, 2021 in which we requested approval to move the planning of the Brant Community Healthcare System (BCHS) from the Pre-Capital Submission to Stage 1 of planning. We have since made two submissions through the Pre-budget Consultation Process with the Ministry of Finance and have had the Ministry's Capital Planning Team on-site to review our facilities. The purpose of this letter is to ask that you urgently review this matter and provide approval to move planning forward for the redevelopment of the Brant Community Healthcare System to Stage 1.

The communities we serve including Brantford, Brant County, Six Nations and Mississaugas of the Credit and surrounding area are amongst some of the fastest growing in the provincial. The community is a designated growth centre and leadership within the community is very concerned that we have not been granted the approval to plan. It is seen as a significant risk to the community and the healthcare for its citizens, particularly, as presently our hospital is functioning well beyond its capacity.

As you are aware, supervision ended at Brant Community Healthcare System on December 31, 2019. In the Supervisor's final report she indicated the 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 (now MP Larry Brock) and MPP Will Bouma.

The Committee endorsed the pre-capital submission in January 2020. It was approved by the BCHS Board of Directors at its February 2020 meeting and then submitted to the Ministry.

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. On November 1, 2021 the Ministry Capital Branch staff had the opportunity to tour our site and they supported the urgent need to move forward with planning for a new Hospital.

There is strong community alignment and support to move planning forward. In the coming weeks we will be leveraging our collective community voice to advocate for the needs of the residents.

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 a critical 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.

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.

Finally, we are appreciative of the approval to move forward our planning from Project 1 of BCHS's Emergency Department Redevelopment to Stage 4. We look forward to tendering this project in the spring or summer once Ministry approval is secured. We are also asking for approval to move forward Project 2 of the Emergency Department Redevelopment to Stage 3.

Finally, we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these important requests.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul Emerson, Board Chair



David McNeil, President and Chief Executive Officer

cc. Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health  
Will Bouma, MPP Brantford-Brant