

Call for Fair Provincial Funding for Health Care Services Spreads from East to West

Two High Growth Communities Unanimously Pass Resolutions on the same day asking Province to fix how provincial health care funding is distributed.

March 3, 2009

Toronto: Yesterday both the Town of Georgina in York Region and the City of Cambridge in Waterloo Region passed resolutions calling on the Ontario government to provide a fairer share of provincial funding for hospitals in Ontario's high growth communities. Resolutions passed call on the province to:

1. Speed up implementation of the \$100 million hospital growth funding commitment ensuring that growth funding is targeted to high growth hospitals,
2. Quickly implement "Health Based Allocation Model" (HBAM) i.e., population-needs-based funding for provincial hospital and health care services, and,
3. Develop a health care growth plan for Ontario high growth communities to complement *Places to Grow*.

Resolutions have now been passed by 18 high growth communities.

The results of a recent report by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) were presented to both councils by the Growing Communities Healthcare Alliance. The report shows that hospital services in high growth communities in the GTA/905 regions, Kitchener and the Waterloo Region, Simcoe County, Wellington County and Dufferin County receive \$255 less per resident in provincial funding compared to the rest of Ontario and that community-based & long-term care services received \$84 less per resident in provincial funding. For residents in these regions, this translates into a \$1.404 billion annual operating funding gap for local hospital care and a \$526 million annual operating funding gap for local community-based & long-term care services.

Based on the PwC report findings, the Alliance explained that:

- residents in Cambridge receive \$279 less per resident compared to other Ontarians for hospital care translating into a \$205 million shortfall in annual operating funding
- residents in Georgina receive \$226 less per resident compared to other Ontarians for hospital care translating into a \$282 million shortfall in annual operating funding.

Both communities also receive less provincial funding per resident compared to the rest of Ontario for local long-term care services, home care services, addiction services, community mental health services and community support services for seniors.

“With the additional health care funding the Premier secured for Ontario through equal per capita health care funding from the federal government, the Premier and the Minister of Finance have a real opportunity to address the lack of fairness in provincial health care funding that is facing four million Ontarians living in our fastest growing communities,” said Robert Grossi, Mayor of the Town of Georgina. “The additional health care funding from the federal government provides the province with the ability and the room to act more quickly on the hospital growth funding election commitment and further improve access to hospital care for residents of Georgina and other Ontarians in high growth communities.”

“By moving Ontario to a population-needs-based funding formula to distribute health care funding we can spend tax dollars more wisely and ensure that all Ontarians receive a fair share of provincial health care funding based on their needs,” said Doug Craig, Mayor of the City of Cambridge. “A fairer distribution of provincial health care funding coupled with adequate hospital growth funding will ensure that our hospital has the resources it needs to meet the growing needs of the City of Cambridge.”

The Growing Communities Healthcare Alliance works on behalf of Ontarians in high growth communities to improve their local access to hospital and health care services. High growth communities account for more than 70 per cent of Ontario’s annual population growth, growing by more than 100,000 new residents each year.

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BACKGROUNDER

RESOLUTION PASSED BY CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Whereas Ontarians believe in the principle of fairness; that fairness defines who we are and how we live;

Whereas the high growth communities in Ontario grow at more than twice the rate of the provincial population growth rate and are aging at twice the provincial rate;

Whereas population growth in these regions will further intensify due to Ontario's 25-year growth plan, *Places to Grow*;

Whereas as of 2008/09 Ontarians residing in the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) with high growth communities are receiving \$255 less per resident in provincial funding for local hospital services compared to residents in other LHINs in Ontario, which translates into a \$1.4 billion annual operating funding gap for local hospital services – and these provincial funding gaps are worsening each year;

Whereas residents of the City of Cambridge, as part of the Waterloo-Wellington LHIN are receiving \$279 less per resident in provincial funding for local hospital services when compared to the average Ontarian, which translates into a \$205 million annual operating funding gap for local hospital services;

Whereas the Government of Ontario has acknowledged the growing funding gaps for hospital services in high growth communities by committing during the 2007 provincial election to provide \$100 million in additional annual operating funding to high growth hospitals;

Whereas the provision of \$30 million in hospital growth funding for 2008/09 still means that the provincial funding gap for hospital care continues to widen in high growth communities;

Whereas the Government of Ontario has announced that it is developing and will implement a new Health Based Allocation Model (HBAM) to allocate new health care resources to Local Health Integration Networks based on patient care needs and to address health care funding inequities in Ontario;

Whereas the Government of Ontario has successfully secured from the federal government greater fairness for Ontario resulting in additional funding for Ontario through the Canada Health Transfer;

Be it resolved that in order to improve timely and local access to hospital care in the City of Cambridge and across high growth communities in Ontario, the City of Cambridge Council asks the Government of Ontario to:

- 1. Speed up implementation of the \$100m hospital growth funding commitment ensuring that growth funding is targeted to high growth hospitals,**
- 2. Quickly implement “Health Based Allocation Model” (HBAM) i.e., population-needs-based funding for provincial hospital and health care services, and,**
- 3. Develop a health care plan for Ontario high growth communities to complement *Places to Grow*,**

And that this resolution is forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Finance, the MPP in the City of Cambridge, High Growth Communities Mayors and Chairs, and the Waterloo-Wellington LHIN.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

Whereas Ontarians believe in the principle of fairness; that fairness defines who we are and how we live;

Whereas the high growth communities in Ontario grow at more than twice the rate of the provincial population growth rate and are aging at twice the provincial rate;

Whereas population growth in these regions will further intensify due to Ontario's 25-year growth plan, *Places to Grow*;

Whereas as of 2008/09 Ontarians residing in the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) with high growth communities are receiving \$255 less per resident in provincial funding for local hospital services compared to residents in other LHINs in Ontario, which translates into a \$1.4 billion annual operating funding gap for local hospital services – and these provincial funding gaps are worsening each year;

Whereas residents of the Town of Georgina as part of the Central LHIN are receiving \$226 less per resident in provincial funding for local hospital services compared to the average Ontarian, which translates into a \$282 million annual operating funding gap for local hospital services;

Whereas Ontarians living in high growth communities of the GTA/905 are receiving \$193 less per resident for provincially funded local social services when compared to the average Ontarian, which translates into a \$641.9 million annual operating funding gap for local provincially funded social services – and these provincial funding inequities also worsening each year;

Whereas the Government of Ontario has acknowledged the growing funding gaps for hospital services in high growth communities by committing during the 2007 provincial election to provide \$100 million in additional annual operating funding to high growth hospitals;

Whereas the provision of \$30 million in hospital growth funding for 2008/09 still means that the provincial funding gap for hospital care continues to widen in high growth communities;

Whereas the Government of Ontario has announced that it is developing and will implement a new Health Based Allocation Model (HBAM) to allocate new health care resources to Local Health Integration Networks based on patient care needs and to address health care funding inequities in Ontario;

Whereas the Government of Ontario has successfully secured from the federal government greater fairness for Ontario resulting in additional funding for Ontario through the Canada Health Transfer;

Be it resolved that in order to improve timely and local access to hospital care in York Region and across high growth communities in Ontario, the Town of Georgina Council asks the Government of Ontario to:

- 1. Speed up implementation of the \$100m hospital growth funding commitment ensuring that growth funding is targeted to high growth hospitals and provide growth funding for social services,**
- 2. Quickly implement “Health Based Allocation Model” (HBAM) i.e., population-needs-based funding for provincial hospital and health care services and develop a population-needs-based funding formula for social services, and,**
- 3. Develop a health care and social services growth plan for Ontario high growth communities to complement *Places to Grow*,**

And that this resolution is forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Finance, the MPPs for York Region, High Growth Communities Mayors and Chairs, and the Central LHIN.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED SINCE JANUARY 2008

REGION	DATED PASSED
1 Town of Richmond Hill	March 3/08
2 City of Oshawa	March 3/08
3 Town of Ajax	April 14/08
4 The Regional Municipality of Peel	April 17/08
5 City of Pickering	April 21/08
6 Town of Aurora	April 22/08
7 Town of Whitby	April 28/08
8 Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	May 20/08
9 Municipality of Clarington	September 29/08
10 Town of Caledon	September 30/08
11 Town of Newmarket	November 10/08
12 The Regional Municipality of Durham	November 19/08
13 City of Burlington	December 15/08
14 The Regional Municipality of Halton	January 21/09
15 Town of Milton	January 26/09
16 Town of Halton Hills	February 23/09
17 Town of Georgina	March 2/09
18 City of Cambridge	March 2/09