

Call for Fair Provincial Funding for Health Care Services Spreads to Waterloo Region

Waterloo Region joins call on province to more quickly act on hospital growth funding commitment and implement new hospital funding formula

March 12, 2009 – Immediate Release

Waterloo: Waterloo Regional Council unanimously passed a resolution yesterday calling on the Ontario government to improve how provincial health care funding is distributed across Ontario. Joining a number of high growth communities that have passed resolutions seeking improvements to how the province allocates provincial health care funding, Waterloo Region resolution calls on the province to:

1. Implement a new Health Based Allocation Model for communities in Ontario using the new Federal transfers for healthcare and other resources as soon as possible;
2. Ensure that communities experiencing higher growth receive adequate funding to maintain services, and,
3. Ensure that healthcare funding for Ontario's communities reflect and support the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe

Earlier in the month, the Growing Communities Healthcare Alliance presented the findings of a PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) report to a joint meeting of Regional Council and municipal councilors and mayors. Based on the PwC report findings, the Alliance explained that residents in the Waterloo and Wellington regions receive \$279 less per resident compared to other Ontarians for local hospital care translating into a \$205 million shortfall in annual operating funding. In addition, residents in Waterloo and Wellington regions 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.

“Having secured significant additional health care funding from the federal government we would like to encourage Premier McGuinty and Dwight Duncan, the Minister of Finance to use the upcoming budget to translate their success at increasing federal health transfers into real benefits for Ontarians on the ground,” said Regional Chair Ken Seiling. “By implementing the Health Based Allocation Model and speeding up implementation of their hospital growth funding commitment, the Premier and the Treasurer can make a real difference in local hospital services for residents of Waterloo Region and other high growth communities across the Province.”

“The business community recognizes the importance of local health care services in attracting both employers and employees and we hope that Finance Minister Dwight Duncan addresses

the inequity in hospital funding for high growth regions like Waterloo in the 2009 Ontario Budget,” said Joan Fisk, President and CEO of the Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce. “With a growing population, Waterloo Region needs to be expanding local hospital and health care service which will have a positive impact on local investments and job creation.”

“The Premier and his Minister of Finance have an excellent opportunity to translate their “Fairness for Ontario” win at the federal level into investments that will further improve access to health care in a number of communities across Ontario, help keep Ontarians healthy, maintain and create jobs in communities hardest hit by the economic downturn, and equally important, support communities that will be key to Ontario’s economic turnaround,” added Anne McGuire, Chair of the Growing Communities Healthcare Alliance.

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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BACKGROUND

RESOLUTION BY WATERLOO REGION

Whereas healthcare funding in the Province of Ontario to date has been based in part on historical spending,

And whereas significant population growth in many areas has not attracted adequate funding,

And whereas during the passage of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Province of Ontario indicated that it would “ensure that the necessary health care infrastructure is in place to support growth”,

And whereas the Province has acknowledged that it will move to a new Health Based Allocation Model which will flow funding to LHIN’s using a population/needs based funding model,

And whereas healthcare in Waterloo Region has not received sufficient new funds to match the growth which has taken place,

Be it resolved that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo requests the Province of Ontario to:

1. Implement a new Health Based Allocation Model for communities in Ontario using the new Federal transfers for healthcare and other resources as soon as possible;
2. Ensure that communities experiencing higher growth receive adequate funding to maintain services, and,
3. Ensure that healthcare funding for Ontario’s communities reflect and support the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe,

And that this resolution be forwarded to Premier Dalton McGuinty, Health Minister David Caplan, Minister of Finance Dwight Duncan, John Milloy MPP, Gerry Martiniuk MPP, Leeanna Pendergast MPP, Elizabeth Witmer MPP, and the Waterloo-Wellington 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
19	The Regional Municipality of Waterloo	March 11/09