

Friends of the Ajax-Pickering Hospital

5 Kirkham Drive, Ajax, Ontario L1S 5L1



www.friendsofaph.ca

September 30, 2016

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

We are writing to express grave concerns in the health services delivery for the population of West Durham in light of our understanding that your Minister of Health and Long Term Care, Dr. Eric Hoskins, has chosen not to follow the recommendations of the Scarborough/West Durham Expert Panel report for a new Durham Health Corporation to include Ajax-Pickering Hospital and the existing sites of Lakeridge Health. Despite Dr. Hoskins' promise in April, 2016 to proceed with Scarborough/West Durham Panel recommendations, he has recently announced that Lakeridge Health would simply absorb the Ajax-Pickering Hospital. Once again our community finds itself disregarded as health care decisions are moved to an external jurisdiction.

Capacity development at the Ajax-Pickering Hospital has not mirrored growth of the population in West Durham. In fact, Ajax-Pickering Hospital has the capacity to serve only a third of the population of the communities it is supposed to serve. This has resulted in an overflowing Emergency Department due to a severe shortage of beds. Our facility's Emergency Department volumes currently can support only a 6% admission rate compared to the 12% provincial average. This means that only the sickest of the sick get admitted, and drives underservicing of our maternal, paediatric and other vulnerable populations.

Short-term Population Forecasts of the Regional Municipality of Durham and the Expert Panels both highlight that Ajax-Pickering Hospital will be serving a greater population than Lakeridge Oshawa by 2020, including the roughly 30% of Whitby residents who now access Ajax-Pickering Hospital for their medical services. Indications are that Ajax-Pickering representation on the Lakeridge Board will not nearly reflect this.

We respectfully urge you to follow through and instruct Mr. Mark Rochon, the amalgamation facilitator, to follow the Expert Panel's report recommendations that:

1. an inclusive health corporation be created in the region of Durham: Durham Health System;
2. a new Board of Directors be elected at the commencement of the new governance structure;
3. the fast growing population of West Durham be represented by at least 40 % on the Board of Directors;
4. the Rouge Valley Health System board located in Scarborough not negotiate on behalf of the people of West Durham;
5. the newly elected Board of Directors draft the by-laws of the new Durham Health System Corporation;
6. the date of November 1st for the absorption of Ajax-Pickering Hospital into Lakeridge Health be postponed to allow consideration of the above issues.

We strongly believe that it is through a new Durham Health System Corporation that health delivery will be **fair** and **equitable** throughout the region of Durham.

We respectfully request an urgent meeting to discuss these important matters.

Yours Sincerely,

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Cc:

Mark Rochon, Facilitator Chair, Lakeridge Health Chair, RVHS
Mr. Joe Dickson, MPP, Ajax-Pickering