



The Brampton Board of Trade

Submission to Central West LHIN Task Force Re: Peel Memorial Hospital Redevelopment

January 2008

On behalf of The Brampton Board of Trade, representing the interests of our over 1,100 business members and the business community of Brampton, we are pleased to have an opportunity to respectfully submit our input to the Central West LHIN Task Force for its development of a recommended redevelopment plan for Peel Memorial Hospital. We are very encouraged by the efforts to engage key stakeholders and the public in the process, as well as the expeditious timelines for the review to ensure that Peel Memorial Hospital redevelopment would commence in 2009 as clearly and repeatedly committed to by the Provincial Government.

Brampton needs two hospitals

The Brampton Board of Trade is very proud of its long standing role advocating for and supporting adequate hospital care in our large and rapidly growing community. Since 2000, when it was announced that Brampton would be receiving a new hospital (Brampton Civic Hospital), there has been ongoing concerns about the need to preserve and redevelop Peel Memorial Hospital. It has been the long-standing position of The Brampton Board of Trade that Peel Memorial Hospital, located in the core of our city, is essential to the economic vitality of Brampton's downtown and Queen St. corridor, and must be retained as a second hospital in Brampton.

Adequate health and hospital care are critical elements of quality of life, economic development and sustainability in a community, however Brampton has long been inadequately serviced, and there is strong evidence, including information produced by the Central West LHIN indicating that the levels of hospital and health service provided in our community are well below the provincial average (Source: *Central West LHIN Integrated Health Service Plan, October 2006*).

Brampton Civic Hospital opened with 479 beds; a ratio of one bed for every 1,000 Brampton residents (not including residents from neighbouring municipalities that access hospital care in Brampton). The provincial average is 2.7 beds per 1,000. Even when Brampton Civic Hospital achieves full capacity in 2011/2012, as currently planned, Brampton will still be well below the provincial average – unless hospital services are reactivated at Peel Memorial Hospital.

As referenced in the *Central West LHIN Integrated Health Service Plan, October 2006*, the Central West LHIN (to which Brampton comprises more than half of the population) not only has inadequate hospital beds capacity, but lower capacity in most service areas included in the continuum of health care - with less than adequate funding, availability and access.

Given the clear evidence and historical experience of Brampton residents being provided poor levels of hospital and health care, in September 2007, The Brampton Board of Trade launched the “SaveOurHospital.ca – Brampton Needs Two” campaign, to firstly raise the awareness of our community to the fact that Peel Memorial Hospital was planned to be closed on October 28, 2007 when the new hospital opened – which many residents had been unaware. Secondly, we wanted to convey to the community the critical need to have two hospitals in our large and growing city. And thirdly, issued a ‘call to action’ to the business community and residents of Brampton to participate in this important public campaign to retain Peel Memorial Hospital. This public awareness and advocacy effort received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback and public support. Our online petition at www.SaveOurHospital.ca within 3 months generated approximately 5,000 petitions – completed by supporters that visited the website and completed the petition with their names and contact information to support preserving Peel Memorial Hospital and having two hospitals in our large and growing community. In addition to our campaign, residents took it upon themselves to generate another 5,000 signed petitions for the same cause. As a result, it is very clear that hospital care is a critical issue of concern of Brampton residents and businesses, and the message is loud and clear that our community wants and if fact demands that Peel Memorial Hospital continue to serve the increasing hospital and health care needs as our rapidly growing city’s much needed second hospital.

In this, The Brampton Board of Trade’s submission to the Peel Memorial Hospital redevelopment planning process, we have deemed that there are Five Key Principles that must be met relating to redevelopment of the Peel Memorial Hospital site.

FIVE KEY PRINCIPLES

1. Peel Memorial Hospital must be planned to be redeveloped as a hospital

Firstly, our long-standing position remains that Peel Memorial Hospital must serve as a needed second hospital in our large and growing city. Brampton’s current population and projected significant growth warrants our community having a second hospital, and Peel Memorial Hospital provides an ideal, central and accessible location.

2. Redevelopment must be expedient to reactivate Peel Memorial Hospital

There are many innovative health care opportunities that can be developed immediately that can ultimately include a hospital. Thus redevelopment must be imminent and completed no later than 2009 as committed to by the Province.

3. Creative health care services opportunities and funding models should be explored to maximize potential of Peel Memorial Hospital site

There are many various health and hospital care related functions and services opportunities that can be located on the Peel Memorial Hospital site. It is not The Brampton Board of Trade's intent to be prescriptive about what precise services should be available on the site. However, our members and the community have made it clear in no uncertain terms that Peel Memorial Hospital must include Emergency Services. Various funding models should also be explored and genuinely considered to ensure that the site is reactivated within the timelines previously announced by the Province.

4. Peel Memorial Hospital's ideal location in Brampton's central core provides high opportunity for employment and economic spin offs and supports Province's "Places to Grow" policy of public investment in central areas

There is a strong economic case that the health care services provided at Peel Memorial Hospital contribute to employment and economic spin offs as it always has in our central core, also meeting the Province's strong "Places to Grow" policy position on concentrating public investments in, developing and intensifying central cores and downtowns – that includes Brampton as a designated growth centre. A large health care facility, centrally located, supports economic development in the central area and accessibility by public transit – key elements of good planning.

5. Brampton Civic Hospital must be brought to full capacity in quicker timeline

It is very evident that Brampton Civic Hospital, as Brampton's current single hospital, is not meeting the hospital care needs of our community, especially given that it opened at less than its capacity. It is critical that achieving full capacity of Brampton Civic Hospital be expedited and the 2011/12 timeline be advanced.

The Brampton Board of Trade, representing the interests of business, has a strong vested interest in supporting strong health and hospital care in our city, as it contributes to enhanced quality of life and economic development. If the noted principles highlighted in this submission are met as part of the LHIN Task Force Review, an optimal solution for our community and the potential of the Peel Memorial Hospital site would be provided.

Thank you for your consideration of The Brampton Board of Trade's input on this important issue.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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