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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, January 10, 2008

### **Peel Memorial Hospital site must be planned to be redeveloped as a hospital imminently says Brampton Board of Trade**

In its formal submission to the Central West LHIN Task Force reviewing Peel Memorial Hospital redevelopment, The Brampton Board of Trade, Brampton's leading business association, highlighted that there are Five Key Principles that must be met relating to redevelopment of the hospital site that would provide an optimal solution for the Brampton community and the potential of the site.

The first principle espoused by the Board of Trade is that Peel Memorial Hospital must be planned to be redeveloped as a needed second hospital in our large and growing city, providing an ideal, central and accessible location. Second, that redevelopment must be expedient, meeting the Province's announced timeline of 2009. It was suggested that there are many innovative health care opportunities that can be developed immediately that can ultimately include a hospital. Thirdly, that various creative health and hospital care related functions and services opportunities should be explored to be located on the site and various funding models be genuinely considered. While deliberately not being prescriptive about what services should be included, The Board of Trade felt strongly that Emergency Services was needed. The fourth Principle is that Peel Memorial Hospital's ideal and accessible location in Brampton's central core provides excellent employment and economic spin offs, and is good planning, supporting the Province's "Places to Grow" policy of public investment in central areas. Lastly, The Brampton Board of Trade felt strongly that given the high current demands and needs for hospital care in Brampton that the new Brampton Civic Hospital be brought to full capacity in a quicker timeline than 2011/12, as currently planned. Brampton Civic Hospital was built to accommodate 608 beds, but currently has 479, and emergency visit have been up by over 20% since the hospital opened.

"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," says Brampton Board of Trade President, Linda Ford. "This is a critical issue of concern of Brampton residents and businesses, and the message is loud and clear that our community wants and demands that Peel Memorial Hospital continue to serve the increasing hospital and health care needs of our rapidly growing city and that redevelopment of the site occur with no further delay."

The Brampton Board of Trade has met with representatives of the Central West LHIN and its planning consultants to share its comments, and will be formally presenting to the LHIN Task Force at an upcoming meeting.

To read The Brampton Board of Trade's written submission to the Central West LHIN, visit [www.bramptonbot.com](http://www.bramptonbot.com).

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