

## Memo

**TO: GBHS Community**  
**FROM: Lance Thurston, President and CEO**  
**DATE: December 18, 2015**  
**SUBJECT: Markdale Hospital Project Update – Progress is Being Made!**

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On December 17<sup>th</sup> a project team consisting of our Director of Facilities Management, Gary Seibel; Dr. Hamilton Hall; Manager of our Markdale Hospital, Joanne McRobert and I travelled to Toronto to meet with the Ministry of Health and the LHIN to discuss the Markdale Hospital project. The aim of the meeting was to refocus the review process to enable a faster approval.

- It was affirmed that the project is an APPROVED capital project with the Ministry and that a capital budget has been allocated to the project by the Ministry. The Capital Branch is committed to getting the new hospital built. This is a significant and positive signal!
- The LHIN fully supports the construction of a new hospital in Markdale and the innovative model of care we are proposing. LHIN officials spoke well of GBHS as a systems thinker, a partner in healthcare transformation and they appreciate that we are willing to reinvent our model of care to reflect changing circumstances.
- Two project team meetings have been set for January to further the approvals process. This is welcomed! The teams are committed to trying to have this stage of approval wrapped up within the next three months or so.
- The Ministry confirmed that the reason this project was approved by the Minister is that it represents an innovative model the Province wishes to adopt for future investment in small rural hospitals in Ontario.

We moved this project along in a substantive manner through this meeting. I remain optimistic and the team is energized!

Our discussion with the Ministry was greatly enabled by Dr. Hamilton Hall, who was able to bring the community's perspective, and the perspective of our physicians, to the table in very real terms. Jo McRobert was able to provide solid front line experience to help add context and colour to what sometimes seem like academic concepts or theories; how it really works in rural Ontario and in Markdale in particular. Gary of course is our sage counsel whose work on this project goes back to the beginning. His expertise and savvy, and ability to connect the project dots is invaluable.

Thank you all for your continued support!

LT