



Ontario Association of Architects

June 29, 2018

His Worship Mayor Drew Dilkens  
Windsor City Council  
Members of the Planning, Heritage & Economic Development Standing Committee (PHED)  
350 City Hall Square West, Room 530  
Windsor, ON N9A 6S1

**Re: Site Selection of Windsor's Proposed Mega-Hospital**

Dear Mayor Dilkens, Windsor City Council Members and Members of the PHED,

As a self-regulating body, the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) is dedicated to promoting and increasing the knowledge, skill and proficiency of its members, and to administering the *Architects Act*, in order that the public interest in architecture may be served and protected. The OAA comprises approximately 4,000 licensed architects, 1,500 architectural interns and more than 1,750 practices. As part of its regulatory mandate, the Association provides a wide range of services to its members and the public. We enjoy a longstanding, collaborative relationship with all levels of government and some government organizations, and we look forward to continuing our shared work on important issues that affect all Ontarians.

Through the leadership of the Windsor Region Society of Architects (WRSA), the OAA has been made aware of the Windsor Regional Hospital's plan to construct a new single-site, acute-care hospital to serve Windsor and Essex County. The OAA applauds the Erie St. Clair LHIN Steering Committee for contemplating the reuse of some of the existing health care facilities in Windsor. Retrofitting and reusing existing buildings helps retain the embodied energy that went into the original construction of the structure, and mitigates the creation of waste that results from construction and demolition projects. Reuse is generally more sustainable than demolition.

The choice for a new hospital location, however, should be made carefully with an eye to how the built environment can contribute to the creation of healthy communities. As such, we encourage you to consider the analysis and recommendations found in the WRSA report, "Windsor's Proposed Mega-Hospital Site Review Report." Through its research, the WRSA identified applicable municipal and provincial guidelines and policies related to site selection, and reviewed how these should guide the final decision.

I encourage you to engage with the WRSA to continue to discuss the location of the hospital site. This is a decision of great public interest and one that clearly impacts the public interest in architecture and the creation of built environments. It is a great example of where sharing a discussion with architects can help make architecture and cities overall better for the people who live, work and play in them.

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As always, we look forward to continued dialogue with you on this and other important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John K. Stephenson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

John K. Stephenson, Architect  
OAA, FRAIC  
President

