

Good morning Mr. Baker and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Janice Kaffer and I am a Registered Nurse and am honoured to be the President & CEO of Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare.

I want to acknowledge my colleague from Windsor Regional Hospital, Mr. David Musyj. I fully support and endorse his presentation to you focused on the Windsor-Essex Hospitals System Proposal that is presently under consideration by the Province. David and I continue to work together to bring this vision to reality in order to benefit our entire region.

Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare is the Region's only non acute care hospital. We are a unique healthcare centre offering Rehabilitation Services; Specialized Mental Health & Addictions; Complex Medical and Palliative Care; and Children and Youth Mental Health Services. The organization was created as a standalone hospital as a result of the hospital alignment of October 2013.

Since 2013, in partnership with others in our community including WRH and CMHA to name two of our closest partners, we have been working to facilitate a seamless, integrated and accessible system that will ensure the right patient is at the right place at the right time and receiving the appropriate care. We have seen some significant successes that we will articulate fully in our written submission.

I feel it is important to note that the improvements we have completed or have in progress – have been done without any new funding. Indeed many of the improvements have come with costs that we have had to absorb Ontario hospitals, and we are no exception; have been undergoing a significant transformation largely driven by the new funding formula. Unfortunately, the new formula does not make allowances for the one time cost impacts of the required changes; as a result these costs then negatively impact the funding formula results in subsequent years. This has an impact on our overall sustainability year over year.

We know that over the past five years inflation has grown by 9.4 per cent. Hospital funding has not. Our funding has not kept pace with many new and rising costs, including salary increases mandated through arbitration awards, increasing energy costs and cost associated with mandatory regulations. For example our annual hydro costs have grown from \$1.1M in 2014 to an estimated \$1.8M in the coming year; growing by 59 per cent over the past 3 years.

At Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare we are passionate about Mental Health! I'd like to take the opportunity to highlight this essential service and the growing needs that we are unable to meet with our current resources. Today I have to say that we have reached a place where the creation of new programs and services in mental health and our other program lines are no longer possible. At a minimum HDGH requires investment to our base just to maintain our service levels and combat the inflationary pressures that continue unchecked.

We have followed the federal/provincial negotiations on health transfers carefully. The conversation around targeted funding to enhance mental health is something we would enthusiastically embrace. Over and above the very real need for an increase to our base funding we know there are two specific needs that could be addressed with targeted and increased funding specifically for MH. First, a specialized Urgent Care/Emergency MH Assessment Service would relieve the pressures in the acute care system and provide more timely support and services for these patients. Incidentally this would also free up much needed EHS and Policing resources who can be tied up in the ED for long periods of time waiting for a mental health patient to be assessed. This strategy is a key component of the future system plan for mental health that we can action now. Second, we also see an immediate need to develop a team to support long-term care homes in admitting and managing clients with behavioural issues. This would ensure that fewer of our seniors are living extended periods in hospital – these individuals are often referred to as ALC's – and I'm sure you'll hear from others across the province on this issue.

As part of the hospital system redevelopment plan that was highlighted earlier by Mr. Musyj all hospital based mental health will be managed and delivered by Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare in future. The vision for mental health that is articulated in this plan is many years out but I believe we cannot wait for the realization of this plan to begin the process of improving mental health services in our region. We hope you agree.

We will be providing you and your team a comprehensive submission before January 31st in order to expand upon today's presentation and provide the required details and recommendations that there was insufficient time for today.

In closing, Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare is a capable leader and willing partner prepared to work with you, our local partners, and the Province of Ontario to advance Windsor Essex health care forward into the future. We are committed to the vision articulated in the new hospital system plan and strongly encourage

government to approve our community to advance our planning to Stage 2 in the process. The needs are great and our shared vision for the future is compelling. We can begin to build that future now – with your help.

Once again, thank-you for this opportunity and my colleagues and I are available to answer any questions you may have.