

**M.Michael O'Flanagan
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October 21, 2009,

Dear Members of Council for the Regional Municipality of York:

Subject: Hospital-Funding. And approval of the MoU

As you consider approving the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) I would like to identify several concerns and ask you to consider a particular course of action.

There has been scant involvement of the ratepayers on this issue throughout the period June 2008 to the present. This is a regrettable state of affairs and needs to be corrected. We would urge you in the future to invite and engage the residents in the discussions at committee and at council. This lack of consultation may well be a missed opportunity for political intervention of the residents with the provincial government.

I need to inform you that the group I represent continues to be in opposition to any Municipal levy in favour of Hospital capital programs .This is especially true in light of the 22 year program of funding capital projects in York hospitals with an approximate projected cost / expense to the people of York of \$340,000,000.00 (est.). This cost / expense may grow even further in the event Developmental Charges (D.C.s) are imposed and added to this sum.

Given the magnitude of York regions debt (reported in the Star March 6,2009 to be about \$ 1.0 Billion), this proposed use of funds from the annual Regional tax levy in each year over the next 20 plus years is limiting our ability to focus on and pay down that debt.

Given the magnitude of

- Federal, Provincial taxes**
- The Ontario Health Care Premiums ,**

Our claim is that we are taxed extensively and the actions of Regional council to impose a further “Made in York region Health Care Premium / tax “upon us. for 22 years is difficult to understand and accept.

It would appear that adopting such a financial commitment would let the Provincial Government off the hook for the next 22 years.

We still continue to hold the view that Council does not have the authority to impose any tax in favour of hospitals .Reasoning such as,”The hospitals need our help “or” the hospitals have no where to turn “or “we would like to help the hospitals because they couldn’t raise the funds they want” are not reasons for exceeding your authority as a Council.

In the event that you adopt the proposed MOU, we would urge you to consider modifying it by adopting a lesser term than 22 years. Two such models are presented

Model A

A term that coincides with the election of each new council .and the requirement that each new council re-approve the MoU for its first fiscal year .In this way this council is not binding all the councils which follow for the next 22 years.

Model B

A term for the MoU from 1 to 5 years may assist the hospitals, you and us in bringing political action and advocacy to bear on the Province for the full funding of Hospitals.

Given other developments such as the rise of LIHNs (Local integrated Health networks) and the unknown scope of their authority in operating / overseeing hospital operations and the co-ordination of resources over a much broader area than York ,it may be important to re-examine this MoU as these structures and their fiscal authority are put in place .A shorter term would be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael O’Flanagan