

18TH EDITION

Keeping you informed on progress and plans for the New Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital Project. Brought to you by the Project Management Office.

Project Vision

Create a state-of-the-art treatment and healing environment for all of those who we care for; a supportive workplace with the latest technologies to allow all of our staff to provide the most efficient and highest quality care, in a new hospital that supports well-being and has the capacity to provide timely, patient and family-centred care for generations to come.

Project Update

New Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital Project Update

Since the submission of the Stage 1.3 proposal for the New Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital in April, the Ministry of Health has been reviewing the 1,100+ page document to ensure the final approved plan aligns with provincial expectations and standards for modern and efficient hospital care. During a recent meeting with the Ministry's Capital Planning Branch, officials repeated the Ministry's commitment to working collaboratively with Windsor Regional Hospital (WRH) to finalize the plans and meet Infrastructure Ontario's targets of starting the tendering process to select a company to complete the design and build the hospital in 2025, with shovels in the ground to follow in 2026. The project management team and hospital leadership will work closely with the Ministry throughout this process, and respond quickly to any questions.

In the meantime, the future of the Ouellette Campus continues to dominate the planning team's focus. The Ouellette Campus is a vital component of the new service delivery model. Once the new hospital opens, Urgent Care, Diagnostic Imaging, Lab, Pharmacy, Renal Dialysis and Outpatient Services will continue to be offered at the downtown location. Maximizing the reuse of good infrastructure at the Ouellette Campus while ensuring a positive and safe patient

experience has been a priority for the planning team. After months of working with Parkin Architects Limited and User Groups representing the programs and services planned for the downtown location, the final Stage 1.3 submission plans, including a high-level scope outline and early drawings, are starting to take shape. A final round of meetings with User Groups - made up of hospital staff, leadership and community representatives - is scheduled to take place this month to review the draft plans. Once complete, the submission will be shared with the hospital Board of Directors for endorsement before it is submitted to the Ministry of Health for review and feedback. The goal is to complete the part of the work within the current calendar year.

Envisioning the future of retail and technology in the new hospital

Retail and ICAT (Information, Communication, Automation and Technology) experts recently brought on board to identify the future needs of users in the new hospital have begun the research phase of their work and will soon be looking to speak with users.

A visioning session is scheduled for November with the team at Angus Connect to support the development of an [ICAT Strategy](#) for the new hospital. Participants will be encouraged to imagine potential uses for technology to ensure a seamless and comfortable patient

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Learn more about the project and subscribe to the project email list for updates at www.WindsorHospitals.ca

Making History:

The Three Fires Confederacy gathers with other nations for ceremonial blessing of the future home of the New Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital.



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Making History:

The Three Fires Confederacy gathers with other nations for ceremonial blessing of the future home of the New Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital.

On October 19, 2023, dignitaries and leadership from regional First Nation communities joined Windsor Regional Hospital and community leaders to honour the land where the New Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital will be built and the connection of the original peoples who resided in the area and received healing from the medicines of Mother Earth.

The **Maamaawi Gidoozhichigemin** or “We Build Together” ceremony is part of Windsor Regional Hospital’s ongoing efforts to ensure a welcoming and equitable experience for Indigenous patients and visitors at current and future hospital facilities and to reaffirm a shared commitment to culturally safe and appropriate care.

Caldwell First Nation led a traditional land ceremony at the future home of the new hospital at the northeast corner of County Rd. 42 and the 9th Concession, which is located on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of the Niswi Ishkodewan Anishinaabeg: The Three Fires Confederacy (Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi).

[VIEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MAAMAAWI GIDOOZHICHIGEMIN CEREMONY](#)

“The ceremony is an opportunity to speak

to the ancestors and ask the creators to watch over us and make this a great space to heal our minds, body and spirits,” explained Caldwell First Nation Chief Mary Duckworth noting the inclusive and historical nature of the event. Chief Todd Cornelius of the Oneida Nation of the Thames was also in attendance.

Elected officials from the City of Windsor, County of Essex, Government of Ontario and Government of Canada were also in attendance.

“We will all benefit from this new hospital and it is important that we are all here to begin the process and build this shared space together.”

Councillor and Elder Larry Johnson of the Caldwell First Nation noted the ceremony and luncheon hosted by Windsor Regional Hospital is a landmark moment for all of the indigenous people who participated.

“For the first time in history, The Three Fires Confederacy is able to join with other First Nations and, the Haudenosaunee for something so important as building a hospital. We have been seen as a people who needed non-indigenous medicines. Today, we are seen as full partners with Windsor Regional Hospital to inform the construction and innovations to honour our medicines and cultural beliefs.”

Traditional Knowledge Keeper, Liz Akiwenzie conducted the land ceremony

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journey and support staff in providing timely and efficient care. A final ICAT Strategy is expected to be completed next year. It will inform the design and decision-making throughout the project.

The team at JC Williams, recently hired to develop a retail strategy for the new hospital, is also looking to speak with users. As part of their work to determine how much and what type of [retail opportunities](#) are required to support a positive experience in the new hospital, they want to hear from users, including staff and community members. Watch for opportunities to share your thoughts by participating in a community survey that will be posted on the [project website](#), hospital social media pages and shared with subscribers of the [project mailing list](#).

Community Engagement

In October, the PMO team was invited to share a project update with several groups and organizations including the Cancer Undergraduate Research Education Class at the University of Windsor, The Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association and Canterbury Elder College. It was a privilege to have these opportunities to talk about the important work taking place to transform hospital infrastructure and what it will mean for patients and visitors in the New Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital.



Canterbury Elder College



Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association

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VIEW: Additional photos from [the Maamaawi Gidoozhichigemin Ceremony](#)

that acknowledged the rich history of First Nations in the area, honoured the diverse traditions and culture of the territory, gave voice to the land and its many stories, and invited positive energy into the project space for healing and wellness of all who will be attending the future hospital.

“It’s a way of bridging the awareness, understanding, knowledge and wisdom of the original peoples and settlers working together for the healing and wellness of all,” said Akiwenzie.

The ceremony recognizes the indigenous ancestors who lived and cared for the land, water, plants and animals since time immemorial. Key elements of the ceremony included: sacred pipes, a sacred fire, the remembrance of the ancestors through offerings of strawberries, blueberries, and fish, along with, traditional drumming and singing by the Brown Bear Drumming Group from Oneida of the Thames and the Anishinabe Nation Singers from traditional territories in Southwestern Ontario representing the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi.

Following the ceremony, participants gathered at the Ciociaro Club to share a meal, discuss ongoing planning, and recognize Indigenous community contributions to the project.

Earlier this year, WRH submitted a high-level scope proposal and block drawings for the New Windsor/Essex Acute Care

Hospital. Plans for the new facility include an Indigenous healing space, prominently located at the front of the building, with access to an outdoor healing garden and storage for traditional medicine supplies. The space is designed to accommodate traditional ceremonies including smudging and meetings with family, caregivers, and staff. In addition, the new state-of-the-art facility will include capacity for 100% single-patient rooms and shelled-in space for future growth.

In developing the plans, the project team worked closely with Indigenous partners in Southwestern Ontario, through the Indigenous Services User Group. With representatives from all eight regional First Nations Communities as well as the Can Am Indian Friendship Centre and The Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC), the User Group’s work ensures the new acute care hospital will be a welcoming and safe place for Indigenous patients and visitors.

“Our team is honoured to work alongside First Nation Communities and Indigenous partners in the region to improve care and ensure a culturally safe and welcoming environment,” said David Musyj, President and CEO of Windsor Regional Hospital noting that healthcare has historically not been equitable for Indigenous and First Nations Peoples.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 2015 report documented colonial policies and interventions against the well-being of Indigenous peoples and communities, including Residential Schools, the Sixties Scoop and other harmful practices, highlighting a gap in health outcomes for Indigenous people in Canada. Today’s event is part of ongoing initiatives to make progress on health-related rights of Indigenous people as identified in international law, constitutional law and under the Treaties. Windsor Regional Hospital is working together with Indigenous Governments, communities, and local organizations to build trust, remove existing barriers, and ensure equitable access to healthcare.

“Today was a significant and meaningful moment in this transformational journey we are embarking on together,” said Musyj, “We remain committed to listening, learning, engaging, and working together to provide an inclusive and equitable hospital experience that respects and honours the culture and traditions of First Nations, Inuit, Metis, and Urban Indigenous patients at Windsor Regional Hospital now and for future generations.”

To learn more about the Three Fires Confederacy and how it developed, please visit [Three Fires Confederacy - Bayfield Historical Society](#).

Estimated Project Timeline

STAGE 1
Early Planning



STAGE 2
Detailed Planning
Pending review of Stage 1.3 submission



STAGE 3
Construction
Beginning summer 2026

- Proposal (completed in 2017)
 - Functional Program (Jan. 2022 – June 2022)
 - Block Diagrams (Nov. 2022 – April 2023)
- ← We are here
- Indicative Schematic Design
 - Functional Output Specifications
 - Procurement Docs and RFQ (Early 2025)
 - RFP Process/Evaluation
- Developer Selection/Contract Award
 - Working Drawings
 - Construction Phase
 - Operational Readiness and Move In