



December 5th, 2021

Mayor Cam Guthrie
Guelph City Hall
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

Re: Letter of support for The Elliott Community application for expanded Long-Term Care Beds allocation

Dear Mayor Cam Guthrie and City of Guelph Council,

I'm writing to you and Council on behalf of Guelph General Hospital (GGH) to confirm our support for the application for additional Long-Term Care (LTC) beds at The Elliott Community. As a longtime trusted partner of GGH and a core partner of the Guelph Wellington Ontario Health Team, these additional beds will significantly alleviate some of the ongoing capacity pressures that GGH faces due to the lack of available LTC beds in the Waterloo Wellington area. More than ever due to the lasting and ongoing impacts of the pandemic, the hospital continues to be challenged by the increased community demands on its emergency department and acute care services which is further compounded by a backlog of surgeries. The overwhelming need for LTC beds from both the community and those waiting in hospital has meant patients are waiting longer to be placed and some surgeries are delayed.

Since late 2020, The Elliott Community has been partnering with the hospital to help alleviate these local pressures by providing transitional bed spaces in its retirement home area. While this has allowed patients who are waiting for a LTC bed to be discharged from the hospital to a more appropriate care setting, the care needs are far greater than the beds being provided.

Over the next 23 years, the Waterloo Wellington area will need an additional 5600 LTC beds. With a lack of LTC beds currently available within our local health system, the hospital will continue to have extreme pressures placed on it unless new beds are developed. Most importantly, our seniors who require LTC services deserve appropriate home like settings to receive the long term care that they need. The City of Guelph has not received any new beds allocations in many years, and The Elliott's proposal will quickly and partially address the increased demand.

As the designated Long-Term Care home of the City of Guelph, the Hospital strongly supports The Elliott's proposal to build additional long term care beds in our community. We look forward to continuing to partner with The Elliott and the City to meet the needs of our community now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Marianne Walker
President and CEO