

Markdale hospital build team "energized" after meeting with province

A team from Grey Bruce Health Services had an encouraging visit with the Ministry of Health on Dec. 17.

A follow-up press release states that the group is energized and optimistic after the meeting.

"We moved this project along in a substantive manner through this meeting," said CEO Lance Thurston.

Attending were: Director of Facilities Management Gary Seibel; Dr. Hamilton Hall; Manager of Markdale Hospital, Joanne McRobert and GBHS CEO Lance Thurston. They travelled to Toronto to meet with the Ministry of Health and the LHIN to dis-

cuss the Markdale Hospital project.

The aim of the meeting was to refocus the review process to enable a faster approval.

It was affirmed that the project is an approved capital project with the Ministry and that a capital budget has been allocated to the project by the Ministry. The Capital Branch is

committed to getting the new hospital built.

The LHIN fully supports the construction of a new hospital in Markdale and its innovative model of care. LHIN officials spoke well of GBHS as a systems thinker, a partner in healthcare transformation and they appreciated that Markdale is reinventing its model of care to reflect changing circumstances.

Two project team meetings have been set for January to further the approvals process.

The teams are committed to trying to have this stage of approval wrapped up within the next three months or so.

The Ministry confirmed that the reason this project was approved by the Minister

is that it represents an innovative model the Province wishes to adopt for future investment in small rural hospitals in Ontario.

"Our discussion with the Ministry was greatly enabled by Dr. Hamilton Hall, who was able to bring the community's perspective, and the perspective of our physicians, to the table in very real terms," said Mr. Thurston.

"Jo McRobert was able to provide solid front line experience to help add context and colour to what sometimes seem like academic concepts or theories; how it really works in rural Ontario and in Markdale in particular."

Mr. Thurston thanked everyone in the community for their continued support.

Thanks

Joey