

GBHS a step closer to building new hospital in Markdale

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Grey Bruce Health Services says it's now only one provincial approval away from being able to seek bids for construction of its proposed new \$65 million Markdale hospital.

The hospital corporation recently submitted to the Ministry of Health & Long-term Care its Stage 4.1 documents, which include more than 300 detailed architectural drawings for the facility.

GBHS president and CEO Gary Sims said this latest submission is an "exciting time" for the project and one that follows years of hard work.

"Thanks in large part to the

tenacity and generosity of this community and its donors, we will have a well-designed facility that ensures excellent care is available in this area for decades to come," he said in a statement Tuesday.

Included in the submission are plans for the interior and exterior electrical, mechanical, interior and exterior building materials and signs for the new hospital.

GBHS says it expects to hear back from the ministry on the Stage 4.1 submission by the end of spring.

Once the documents are approved, the project will move into the tender and award stage, which is when general contractors will be invited to submit bids.

The new Markdale hospital is

to include 68,000 square feet of space, with four acute care beds, a palliative care room, 24/7 emergency room with four exam and treatment areas, laboratory, diagnostic imaging services, physiotherapy, space for ambulatory care clinics and two ambulance bays.

Construction is expected to begin in late 2020 and will take approximately two years to complete, GBHS says.

Plans to build a new hospital in Markdale to replace the current 68-year-old Centre Grey Hospital go back more than a decade. Residents and businesses of the community raised about \$11 million for the project in the 2000s.

GBHS has been involved in the current five-stage process to build the hospital since it was announced in September 2015 by former Liberal Health Minister Eric Hoskins that the province had approved the project.

The province had committed to funding 90 per cent of what it considered allowable construction costs, with the other 10 per cent to be covered by the community through the Centre Grey Hospital Foundation.

In late November, Grey Bruce Health Services submitted an application to Grey Highlands for a building permit to construct the new hospital.



An artist's rendering of the proposed new Markdale hospital, supplied Nov. 28 by Grey Bruce Health Services. FILES

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