

DATE: May 21, 2024
REPORT NO: CAO-02-2024
SUBJECT: Hospital Naming
CONTACT: Donna DeFilippis, Interim CAO/Treasurer
Beth Audet, Communications Specialist

OVERVIEW:

- This report will provide Council with the Hospital Naming results that were garnered through a survey that was administered from April 24, 2024 to May 10, 2024
- When focusing in on the West Lincoln community, **75.28% voted NO** to a name change and 24.72% voted YES.
- Results of West Lincoln’s survey will be provided to Hamilton Health Sciences, along with Council’s resolution to support the will of the community, to be included/considered when presenting to its Board of Directors.

RECOMMENDATION:

That, Information Report CAO-02-2024, regarding “Hospital Naming” dated May 21, 2024, be received for information.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Theme # n/a

BACKGROUND:

West Lincoln Memorial Hospital is being rebuilt to accommodate the growing health care needs of west Niagara’s communities. Public support of the new hospital has been overwhelmingly positive, as local residents acknowledge this important endeavour and have demonstrated unwavering commitment to this redevelopment project.

West Lincoln Memorial Hospital provides inpatient services and outpatient services, and as a site of Hamilton Health Sciences, it serves as a point of access to one of the largest health systems in Canada for patients requiring more specialized care.

The new modernized facility will be home to the hospital’s signature programs, including but not limited to, an emergency department, diagnostic imaging, complex continuing care, acute inpatient care, maternal and newborn, day surgery and endoscopy, and ambulatory care.

The new hospital will contain the following environmental/green features:

- The building will achieve LEED silver certification
- Total Energy Use Intensity (TEUI): 1.25 GJ/m²/year
- Greenhouse Gas Intensity (GHGI): 36 kg eCO₂/m²/year
- High performance envelope with full electrochromic windows for all-vision panels in the curtain wall, providing efficiencies in the solar heat gain
- Water cooled heat recovery chiller for first stage of cooling
- Rooftop solar PV system providing 5% of the total building energy load
- Electric vehicle charging stations
- Planting of more than 115 net new trees on site

The Mayors of the Town of Grimsby, Town of Lincoln, Township of West Lincoln and the Chair of Niagara Region had submitted a request to HHS to change the name of the new hospital to *West Niagara Memorial Hospital*. The intention of the new name was to better reflect the geography in which the hospital is located and more accurately represents the broader communities the hospital serves. Similarly, including “West Niagara” in the new name follows recent precedent in naming other community infrastructures, such as the West Niagara Secondary School and the West Niagara Agricultural Centre & Fairgrounds.

The following resolution was passed at the April 22, 2024 Council meeting:

- “1. That it is the desire of the Council of West Lincoln to support the naming of the hospital based on input from our community; and*
- 2. In order to gauge the community's stand, a survey shall be carried out between the dates of April 24, 2024 and May 10, 2024, via both electronic and paper versions, with paper copies being available in the three library locations and the Township offices; and*
- 3. That, given that the Township will be basing its decision on the results of the survey, liaison with the Town of Lincoln and the Town of Grimsby will no longer be required; and*
- 4. That once complete, the results of this survey be provided to the Hamilton Health Sciences Board prior to the HHS Board May meeting and to the WLMH Foundation.*
- 5. That Hamilton Health Sciences be invited to a future meeting of Council or Committee regarding the renaming of the hospital to provide a presentation on the matter.”*

This report will outline those survey results.

CURRENT SITUATION:

The Township of West Lincoln facilitated public consultation to garner feedback from community members and to help inform the HHS Board of Directors in its decision about this request.

A survey was conducted from April 24 until May 10. The survey question asked: Are you in favour of changing the current name of West Lincoln Memorial Hospital to West Niagara Memorial Hospital? YES or NO

Surveys were available online and on paper, with copies available for pick-up and drop-off at the Township Administration Building, the West Lincoln Community Centre and all three West Lincoln Public Library branches.

We received 346 survey responses (314 online and 32 on paper). When analysing the data, 9 survey responses were eliminated due to either duplication or because no answer was submitted.

For clarification, survey responses from different people within the same household were not eliminated. Responses were only considered duplicate when all qualifiers (name, address, etc.) were the same. In those cases, only one submission was kept and the duplication was removed. Also, all of the eliminated duplications had the same answer to the question (YES/NO), so there was no need to try to interpret which answer the person meant to submit.

Of the 337 final survey responses, 267 were from West Lincoln, 47 from Grimsby, 19 from Lincoln, 2 from St. Catharines, 1 from Welland and 1 from Hamilton.

When focusing in on the West Lincoln community, **75.28% voted NO** to a name change and 24.72% voted YES.

When including communities outside of West Lincoln, **74.48% voted NO** to a name change and 25.52% voted YES.

	YES	NO
Ward 1: Caistor	6	42
Ward 2: Gainsborough	13	22
Ward 3: Smithville	47	137
West Lincoln Total	66	201
Other communities	20	50
TOTAL	86	251

Next Steps: Results of West Lincoln’s survey will be provided to Hamilton Health Sciences, along with Council’s resolution to support the will of the community, to be included/considered when presenting this request to its Board of Directors. The HHS Board is expected to make a decision about the new name for the hospital in May or June

at the latest. If the proposed new name is accepted, it would be effective upon the opening of the new hospital in mid-2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications relating to this report. Council is reminded of the funding commitment that the Township has made towards the rebuild of the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital. At this point in time, the total Township contribution is \$4,524,850. This contribution represents 20.9% of the total \$21,650,000 that is required from the Town of Grimsby, the Town of Lincoln and our Township. This contribution will not increase, however, it may decrease if fundraising efforts exceed their targets.

The Township will have approximately \$1,856,800 in the dedicated Hospital Reserve, and will have raised \$252,000 by 2025 through the dedicated hospital tax levy. This dedicated hospital tax levy will be used to pay off the anticipated debenture of \$2,668,050.

Provincial policy determines the funding of new hospitals and capital building projects. New hospitals are not built without community and municipal donations. Known as the “local share,” donations from benevolent individuals, groups, and businesses are key. These fundraising efforts also include municipalities. A community’s required local share is to pay 10% of capital construction costs and 100% of the cost of equipment, furniture, fixtures, and parking lot infrastructure. In terms of overall cost, this translates to 70% provincial, 30% local (individuals, groups, businesses, and municipalities).

To date, the total local funding contribution for the new hospital, including from the three Municipalities and the Region, has exceeded \$50 million.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS:

The Communication Specialist contributed significantly to the writing of this report and was responsible for creating, implementing and analysing the survey.

CONCLUSION:

Staff will be submitting the survey results and the April 22nd, 2024 Council resolution related to the hospital to Hamilton Health Sciences.

Prepared & Submitted by:



Beth Audet, Communication Specialist

Approved by:



Donna DeFilippis, Interim
CAO/Treasurer