

OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR



CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE

April 7th, 2017

The Honourable Minister Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health and Long Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON, M7A 2C4

RE: Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI)

Dear Mr. Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of Sault Area Hospital specifically and the community that it serves.

As you may be aware, residents of Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma are not able to receive PCI at Sault Area Hospital. They are required to travel to Health Sciences North in Sudbury or St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. The patients receive diagnosis, pre – operative care and post – operative care at Sault Area Hospital but are transported to and from either Sudbury or Toronto for the actual PCI procedure.

This process adds an unnecessary cost into the system but, more importantly, it creates an unjustifiable inequity: it denies the residents of our community and area an acceptable standard of cardiac care. Additionally, the lack of PCI service in the community has affected and is continuing to affect our ability to attract and retain cardiologists. Sault Ste. Marie has very recently lost one of our few cardiologists to Thunder Bay. I am sure you can agree that this also has a deleterious effect on care.

Sault Area Hospital worked with the Cardiac Care Network (CCN) and your Ministry for years to develop a PCI service proposal and it has been seeking its approval since the summer of 2016. I note that the proposal has the support of the Cardiac Care Network and the NELHIN. Notwithstanding, the proposal has not met with any success.

I direct your attention to the attached bar chart. The first bar represents the status quo cost. The second bar represents the cost if both the funding and the PCI case load (originating in Sault Ste. Marie) was transferred from Sudbury and Toronto to Sault Ste. Marie. The third bar represents the cost if just the PCI case load (originating in Sault Ste. Marie) was transferred to Sault Ste. Marie and funded independent of the funding received by Sudbury and Toronto. You will note that both the second and third scenarios save the government significant funds.

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The approval of the Sault Area Hospital proposal would not only reduce health care cost, it would support equity, patient-centeredness and quality care close to home. These are all important principles and specifically articulated priorities of your Ministry. As a result, I believe it appropriate that I bring the matter to your attention.

I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you or whomever you delegate as most appropriate to canvass this matter more thoroughly. It is of the utmost importance to our community and it will have my dedicated attention until it finds a proper audience and resolution. The Sault Area Hospital CEO and I will travel to meet you, or your delegate, as your (or their) schedule permits.

I thank you for your time and your attention.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian C. Provenzano'.

Christian C. Provenzano, B.A., LL.B., LL.M.

Attachments: (1)