

Oakville Beaver

Editorial
March 1, 2010

More time please

We believe Oakville taxpayers need a little more time to mull over Halton Healthcare Services' (HHS) proposal for a new hospital before Town Council hands over a \$200-million blank cheque.

While HHS has gone to much effort over the past few months to convince Oakville residents of the need for a new hospital, it has not been as keen to reveal details on just how the Town's \$200 million would be spent.

We understand its hands are somewhat tied by the bidding process for the construction of the hospital, but we feel it has dropped the ball in quelling the public's fears and answering all of their questions.

What we find troubling is that many of these questions still remain unanswered just days before Town council is expected to make its decision on the \$200-million request.

While John Oliver, president and CEO of HHS, indicates council's vote on Monday is simply an endorsement of the project, which will be followed by another vote once all the costs are determined, it's not clear whether council can back out of that endorsement once all the costs are known.

We understand hospital employees and officials are anxious to leave the current building, but we don't believe a request for more time to consider the project is unreasonable.