

# Oakville Beaver

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**Letter to Editor**  
**March 12, 2010**

## **Where are the LHINs?**

On March 1, 3, and 4, 27 delegations were given the opportunity to present their view on the new Oakville Hospital and the \$200 million request from Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) to help pay for the local share of the \$570 million required to build the new hospital.

At no other level of government, provincial or federal, is the public allowed to openly address their elected politicians. The Mayor and the Councillors are to be commended for sitting through over nine hours of presenters and asking questions of delegations to help them with making a decision of funding for the hospital that will affect Oakville residents for the next 30 years or more.

Out of this process I came away with two revelations. The first being the Support the New Hospital campaign led by HHS along with buttons and numerous ads urging people to support HHS's bid for a new hospital.

What was confusing about the campaign is I could find no person opposed to the concept of the new hospital and the only thing I could figure out was if you had any concerns about the \$200 million request, than it was deemed that you were in opposition.

Nothing could be further from the truth. I once again commend the Mayor and the Council for doing their due diligence, and with the help of the Provincial government, delaying the final decision until April 24, so that additional questions can be answered around the costs of the local share.

The second revelation is the discovery of a group that controls two-thirds (\$22 billion) of the total healthcare budget (\$33 billion) in 14 different geographic areas in Ontario.

The group is the Local Health Integrated Network (LHINs). Since April 1, 2007, LHINs has been responsible for funding and ensuring accountability of local healthcare services providers.

Councillor Jeff Knoll rightfully asked, "Why are the LIHNs not here?"

The Town has requested that LHINs participate in the discussion with the Town, the Province and HHS to help resolve outstanding questions regarding the new hospital.

Hopefully by the April 24 deadline the Town will have the answers around the Town's \$200-million local share to put the many concerns of Oakville residents at ease.

Ken Robertson, Oakville