

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Office of the Deputy Premier
and Minister of Health and
Long-Term Care

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**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

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NOV 22 2018



NOV 16 2018

361-2018-781

His Worship Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for your letter regarding the St. Joseph's Healthcare Forensic Psychiatric Unit in Hamilton. I understand your concerns and appreciate the opportunity to respond.

I want you to know that I and the ministry are committed to the safe, fair and compassionate treatment of individuals with mental illness that come into contact with the criminal justice system.

St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton is responsible for the secure detention, treatment and rehabilitation of patients, as set out in their individual dispositions made by the Ontario Review Board (ORB). Where the ORB orders custody in a designated hospital, its disposition will provide directions to the hospital and the patient. These directions include the security level of the forensic unit where the patient is to be detained, specific conditions with which the patient must comply and any instructions to the hospital about whether the patient may have supervised or unsupervised access to the community.

Although the ministry funds public hospitals through Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), the hospitals are independent corporations accountable to their own boards of directors. The hospitals are directly responsible for their own day-to-day management, including decisions about risk management and patient access to the hospital grounds and community, as per the disposition order. The ministry has no role in decisions made by the ORB or decisions made by a public hospital regarding the care of patients subject to ORB dispositions.

The ministry plays a broader role in the health care system. In 2017/18, the ministry invested \$6.3 million in enhancing forensic mental health care services across the province of Ontario. The Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN was provided with \$749,300 in new base

funding for St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton. A portion of this funding was to go towards safety stabilization in the program.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Sincerely,



Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK	
NOV 23 2010	
REF'D TO	<u>File in [unclear]</u>
REF'D TO	<u>[unclear]</u>
REF'D TO	<u>Council Dec 9/18</u>
ACTION	_____
