

Ten things to know about the Stage 2 submission

The last seven months were a whirlwind for those involved in WLMH rebuild planning. But, we got the Stage 2 plan done and sent off to the Ministry for review and approval ahead of schedule!

It's not a final document until the Ministry approves it, so we can't say too much at this point. Though we're too excited not to share some information about the plan. Here are 10 things to know about the WLMH Stage 2 submission:

- The Stage 2 plan is submitted as part of the Government of Ontario's five-stage process for building a hospital, with Infrastructure Ontario estimating construction on the new WLMH to begin in 2022.
- The Stage 2 plan is based on planning details set by the Ministry about the services to be included in the new hospital. The Ministry of Health will make the final decision to approve or request changes to the plan.

and, a preliminary cost estimate.

- Based on Ministry specs to assure accessibility, infection control and service delivery, the proposed hospital will be almost double the size of the current hospital from 65,000 sq. ft. to roughly 120,000 sq. ft.
- Approximately 150 staff members from across WLMH and HHS contributed their experience and expertise to this planning. This was on top of their daily duties of providing or supporting the delivery of excellent patient care. We're incredibly thankful for their efforts to get this done. Particularly because
- Stage 2 planning kicked off the week before COVID-19 started showing up in our community. Almost every meeting was done virtually, but the stakeholder engagement was equally as robust as in-person sessions. We got great questions, ideas and comments in all of our user group meetings. The engagement got even better as we progressed through the process. This was new for all of us, but it was a robust experience and that's definitely reflected in the final plan, said Bart DeVries, director of redevelopment.
- The plan proposes to build the new hospital behind the existing building. Once the new hospital is open, the old hospital will be demolished. This will create a substantial set back from the street to the front door allowing for landscaping and additional parking. The details of what this looks like will be developed in Stage 3.
- The plan includes four operating suites which is twice the number at the current WLMH. This is consistent with the Ministry's direction, meaning more people can receive the surgical care they need at WLMH.
- The plan includes space for a multi-faith room where patients and families will be able to go for a quiet moment of reflection when they need it. The current site does not have a similar space.

Want more content on the WLMH rebuild? Here's the most recent video in our series with WLMH leaders involved in the rebuild, talking about what we're planning and what we can expect moving forward.