

April 14 / 22

HAND DELIVERED IN
THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

Hon. Christine Elliott
Minister of Health
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister,

Yesterday afternoon, along with MPP Schreiner, I met with Guelph General Hospital CEO Marianne Walker and Guelph-Wellington Paramedic Service Chief Stephen Dewar regarding an issue that impacts both of our communities.

The Guelph General Hospital is experiencing delays in ambulance offloading and has applied for the Dedicated Offload Nurse program. Unfortunately, new applicants to the program have been informed that, if approved, they might not be able to receive funding until the fall.

Delays in ambulance offloading have led to longer response times as well as periods of time when no ambulances are available to the community. For example, on Monday around noon, Guelph Wellington Paramedic Service had only one ambulance available to respond to emergencies in the whole of Guelph and Wellington County, an area of 2,600 square km with drive times of over one hour from end to end.

Attached is a briefing note from the City of Guelph outlining the issue in greater detail. It is our hope that a solution to the offloading issue, such as expedited funding application for a dedicated offload nurse, can be found before the issue further escalates.

Sincerely,

Ted Arnott, MPP
Wellington-Halton Hills

Cc: Mike Schreiner, MPP Guelph
Cam Guthrie, Mayor of the City of Guelph
Kelly Linton, Warden of the County of Wellington
Leslie Muñoz, City of Guelph