

Local concerns high on list

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district health council's in the province.

Among other duties, health councils review project proposals — like the expansion plans at GDMH — before passing them on to the ministry for approval.

Mr. Grossman said he takes the role of health councils "very seriously" and described Halton's as "one of the better health councils we have in the province."

"There is nowhere near enough money to fund all of the proposals sent in by health councils," Mr. Grossman said.

He suggested that health councils begin prioritizing projects as they are submitted, maintaining a catalogue of "first-rate projects" which would more likely receive quicker funding.

By streamlining proposals, the ministry may even be able to set firmer dates for projects to begin, he said.

Asked about a response to Halton-Burlington Liberal MPP Julian Reed's call for rest home legislation, Mr. Grossman said the issue falls under the ministry of community and social services, not under the health ministry.

Mr. Reed who, along with transportation minister Jim Snow, attended Wednesday's press conference, later argued that rest home guidelines, like nursing home regulations, should fall under the ministry of health.

However, he added, it wouldn't make much difference what ministry supervised rest homes, as long as guidelines were legislated.

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