

Residents send their healthcare funding concerns via postcards

More than 1,400 residents from across the GTA — including Halton — have delivered their healthcare concerns to their MPPs as part of an ongoing campaign that's pushing the Province to improve timely access to local hospital care.

They sent postcards to MPPs asking them to secure adequate and ongoing provincial growth funding to hospitals in their high-growth regions of the province and allocate it on the basis of population needs.

The response came as part of the GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance's Help Our Hospitals campaign in which posters and postcards were displayed in doctors' offices, hospitals and other

locations across the regions.

"Because the provincial government does not allocate hospital funding based on population needs and there is inadequate growth funding to meet the needs of the rapidly increasing number of residents in our communities, our hospitals are being shortchanged by almost \$900 million compared to hospitals in other regions of Ontario," said Kirk Corkery, chair of the GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance. "People who live in these high-growth regions recognize the impact this is having on themselves and their families."

A recent poll conducted by Léger Marketing and Redfern

Research revealed that less than one third of people living in the GTA believe their hospitals are treated fairly compared to other regions of the province.

An overwhelming majority strongly believe their community hospitals should receive a fair share of provincial funding and more than half believe the quality of hospital care in the GTA has declined because of underfunding.

"It is clear that people living in the GTA/905 understand that their hospitals are underfunded and that this is affecting their timely access to health care close to home," commented Corkery.

Miltonians urged to get active in June

The Town will kick off June's Recreation and Parks Month this weekend with a celebration at Lions Sports Park.

The event, which will be held Sunday, May 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., will start off with a trails walk with Mayor Gord Krantz and Milly the Millstone and a chance to win prizes.

The day will also include family games, face painting, clowns, a barbecue, BMX demonstration and skateboarding jam session, free in-line skating at Milton Memorial Arena from noon to 2:30 p.m. and a free swim sponsored by Boston Pizza at the Milton Leisure Centre from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Cyclists can bring their bicycle helmets in for a safety check and learn more about bicycle safety from the Milton Road Safety Committee.

The Town of Milton is encouraging citizens to walk, bike or roller blade through Milton's many parks and trails throughout Recreation and Parks Month with the help of the Town's Trails and Bikeways Guide.

The municipality urges participants to firm up their commitment to being active in June by registering at www.milton.ca. Also available on the website are a variety of trail walks to explore the community and an activities calendar for June.

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