

DEPUTATION REQUEST

PUBLIC MEETING
REGIONAL COUNCIL
MARCH 24, 2021

Subject: Proposed Development Charges By-Law

Spokesperson: Elaine Walsh

Name of Group or person(s) being represented (if applicable):
Hill House Hospice

Brief summary of issue or purpose of deputation:

Hill House Hospice is a home decorated and filled with love and care; it is also York Region's first ever residential hospice started in 1998. At Hill House, we believe that it is the right of every individual with a serious illness to receive palliative care appropriate to his or her needs. At Hill House, we provide palliative care to individuals diagnosed with a terminal illness in a home-like setting, support for their families and friends and we ensure that each resident is treated with dignity, respect and the highest standard of care. Hill House is staffed by expert nurses, personal support workers (PSWs), doctors, volunteers and administrative staff, all of whom help provide 24-hour care to their residents and families. Hill House is a very special place filled with love, laughter and tears, as well as a compassionate and caring team of medical professionals. We are proud to provide an excellent staff to resident ratio, ensuring that we are able to focus on the holistic needs of everyone that we care for. The entire team at Hill House is extremely grateful for the ongoing support from the Richmond Hill community, as we could not do the work we do without it.

Hill House is planning to increase the number of hospice beds currently available within Richmond Hill in order to meet the growing need in the community. We are requesting that hospice capital projects be exempted from development charges set out in the Region's proposed 2022 Development Charges By-Law.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK
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INTRODUCTION

What is Hospice

Hospice palliative care provides a specialized home-like alternative for individuals in the advanced stages of a serious illness who can no longer be taken care of at home. Hospice care provides physical, emotional and spiritual care in a residential environment where individuals can be surrounded by their loved ones and are supported by a compassionate medical and professional team, who address all of their care needs. Hospice keeps people out of hospital, helping end “hallway medicine” and emergency room overcrowding. Hospice reduces health care costs and leads to better health outcomes.. Hospice delivers compassionate holistic care that is supported and highly valued by communities and is responsive to the individual needs of patients and families. Hospice also supports the mental and emotional well-being of families and caregivers, preventing unnecessary escalation to clinical interventions.

Hospice Need in York Region & Richmond Hill

In terms of the provision of hospice homes across all of Ontario, York Region is currently one of the most underserved regions. York Region is comprised of nine municipalities with Richmond Hill in the centre as its third most populated city, after Markham and Vaughan. Hill House Hospice’s three bedrooms currently serve the population of Richmond Hill and surrounding communities based on need, but the demand for hospice services continues to rise while the supply has remained stagnant for many years. Markham, York Region’s most populated city, currently has no residential hospice beds available and residents of Markham are regularly referred to Hill House Hospice for our services.

A group of residential hospice experts across Ontario formed a working group in 2015 to determine bed capacity benchmarks and determined that there should be at least five beds available for every 100,000 in population (1). However, here in York Region, there are only 23 beds for a population of over 1,000,000 and hospice homes in only three of the nine municipalities. Out of the existing 23 beds, only the 3 bedrooms at Hill House Hospice currently service Richmond Hill and beyond, which has a population of over 200,000 and growing (3).

Below are two tables outlining all of the York Region municipalities, their supply of residential hospice beds, the recommendations for hospital beds based on current and projected population sizes as well as the current and future gaps in services.

Table 1.
York Region Current Hospice Beds Recommendation (2)

Municipality	Population (2021)	Current Number of Hospice Beds	Number of Hospice Beds Needed (2021)	Current Gap in Hospice Beds
Markham	338,503	0	18	18
Vaughan	323,103	10	17	7
Richmond Hill	202,022	3	11	8
Newmarket	87,942	10	5	0
Aurora	62,057	0	3	3
Stouffville	49,864	0	3	3
Georgina	47,642	0	3	3
King	27,333	0	1	1
East Gwillimbury	34,637	0	2	2
York Region Total	1,173,103	23	60	45

Table 2.
York Region Future Hospice Beds Recommendation Based on 2041 Population Projection (2)

Municipality	Projected Population (2041)	Current Number of Hospice Beds	Number of Hospice Beds Needed (2041)	Projected Gap in Hospice Beds (2041)
Markham	535,100	0	27	27
Vaughan	497,000	10	25	15
Richmond Hill	277,900	3	14	11
Newmarket	108,200	10	6	0
Aurora	79,000	0	4	4
Stouffville	64,500	0	3	3
Georgina	71,300	0	4	4
King	37,900	0	2	2
East Gwillimbury	118,700	0	6	6
York Region Total	1,790,000	23	92	72

YOUR SUPPORT

2022 Development Charges Background Study

As we look to increase the number of hospice beds available within Richmond Hill by developing a campaign to expand in order to meet the growing need, we are requesting of Council and the Region to include hospices in the exemptions being put forward in the **Proposed Development Charges Bylaw** within the **2022 Development Charges Background Study** (noted on page 264, 3.5.1).



Hill House Hospice

36 Wright Street, Richmond Hill ON L4C 4A1

There are 2 exemptions articulated within the **2022 Development Charges Background Study** that we would appeal to Council to have extended in order to explicitly exempt hospices from development charges. This exemption would enable Hill House Hospice to realize an immense cost savings as we build our new hospice home. As we are a not-for-profit organization, although 50% of our operational costs are given by the Ministry, the other 50% of all of our costs are realized through private philanthropy and we are reliant on the work of volunteers for many of our internal operations. An exemption of development costs as we look to build and expand our services, would be a tremendous help towards reaching our goal of expansion faster.

The 2 exemptions that could pertain to hospices are items 3.5.1 (b) and 3.5.1 (h)

3.5.1 (b) a building or structure used for a community use owned by a non-profit corporation.

3.5.1 (h) a public hospital receiving aid under the *Public Hospitals Act* or any successor thereto.

BACKGROUND

Hill House Hospice

For close to 25 years, our little brick bungalow on a quiet street in Richmond Hill has offered comfort to residents in their final weeks of life and provided support to their families and loved ones. Hill House Hospice was born from the vision of bringing residential hospice care to the Region and Richmond Hill. Founded in 1998, it was the second hospice to be built in the province of Ontario and the first in York Region. The City of Richmond Hill has so graciously enabled Hill House to remain on the land in order to continue to serve the needs of the city, of which we are extremely grateful.

OUR GOAL

Track Record of Success

Building on close to 25 years of experience in providing expert and compassionate residential hospice care, Hill House Hospice is looking to build a larger hospice home that will enable us to expand our capacity in order to serve the growing needs of our community. Our goal would be to expand from our current 3 bedroom complement to a 12-bedroom hospice. Additionally, we will expand on our existing programs by forming strategic partnerships with an aim to ensure a more seamless and integrated hospice care experience for all that we are able to serve.

REFERENCES

1. Bill D, Gillis K, Sattler D, Plewes S, Lambie B, Caughey D, et al. Strengthening Ontario's End-of-Life Continuum: Advice Regarding the Role of Residential Hospices. 2015.
2. Statistics Canada 2021 Census. Census of Canada. Ottawa.
3. Hospice Palliative Care = System Savings & Efficiencies + Improved Patient & Caregiver Experience. Hospice Palliative Care Ontario. 2022;3.