



The Friends of Ajax Pickering Hospital
68 Hills Road
Ajax, Ontario
L1S 2W2

January 9, 2007

Mr. Tom Atkins
Chair, Board of Directors
Rouge Valley Health System
Rouge Valley Centenary
2867 Ellesmere Road
Toronto, Ontario
M1E 4B9

Dear Mr. Atkins,

In your letter of October 20, 2006 you state in response to our letter of October 5, 2006: "Rouge Valley Health System values the commitment of its members and welcomes comments that the members make in regard to the operation of the hospital." "You were further advised that the Board will consider the three issues noted in your letter of May 11, 2006, as part of the governance review." Further you state: "I wish to reiterate to you that the Board takes your comments seriously, and as previously indicated has committed to review its by-laws and governance processes. These policies will be considered at meetings of the RVHS Board over the next year."

Despite your above statements, since September 2006, the *Friends of the Ajax Pickering Hospital* have not seen or heard any governance policies and processes discussed or debated in open public session at any Board meeting. It appears to the *Friends* that the review of the by-laws, governance policies and processes are being conducted strictly in private without the members of the corporation or the public being given the opportunity to hear the debate, and provide input. If you really valued "the commitment of its members", you would want to include us. All these matters - review of by-laws, governance policies and processes - must be discussed and debated by the whole board in open public session. Why is this not happening?

Consequently, the *Friends of the Ajax Pickering Hospital* request the Board of Directors of the Rouge Valley Health System in open public session:

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- 1.) To amend its by-laws immediately and no later than February 28, 2007, to provide that any member of the corporation may be nominated and elected at the 2007 Annual General Meeting as was done prior to 2005 without having to have been previously approved for nomination and election by the Board Effectiveness Committee. The *Friends* request that this amendment be made now, so that this process will be in place for nominations and subsequent elections at the 2007 Annual

General Meeting.

2.) To improve communications with the community to amend the by-laws further so that at each regular Board meeting, and at the Annual General Meeting an item is added to the business to be transacted that will allow any member of the corporation to ask questions, or make comments about any matter relating to the business of the Rouge Valley Health System.

3.) Again, to improve communications and the understanding of health system issues, the Board take all necessary steps so that discussions, debates, and reports may be better heard, seen and understood at each Board meeting.

In addition, the *Friends of the Ajax Pickering Hospital* request answers to the following questions as soon as possible, and no later than February 28, 2007.

1. What is the current value of the contribution required by the Board for an individual to be a member of the corporation?

2.(a) In its governance review, has the Board, or any of its committees, any plans to change the current value of the contribution?

(b) If there are plans by the Board, or any of its committees to change the value of the contribution of membership, when will the Board debate this issue in open public session, and when will the public be advised?

3.(a) In its governance review, has the Board, or any of its committees, any plans to reduce the number of members of the corporation who at present have voting and other rights?

(b) If there are such plans, when will this matter be discussed in open public session by the Board, and when will the public be so advised?

4.(a) In your letter of October 20, 2006, you state: "Over the next year, Board governance policies will be revised and new policies developed." What revisions to governance policies and new policies are being considered by the Board, or any of its committees?

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(b) When will these revisions to policies and new policies be presented to the Board for discussion and debate in open public session?

5. Further in your letter of October 20, 2006, you state at a Board meeting on October 13 and 14, 2006: "A set of governance priorities were established at that meeting."

What are those priorities? The *Friends* hereby request a copy of those priorities.

The *Friends* request that this letter be distributed to every Board member.

In conclusion, the *Friends* are seeking the requested immediate changes to the by-laws, and the prompt answers to our questions because of our unwavering commitment to the best hospital and health services for the people of Ajax, Pickering and Whitby. It is only with the full support of the people of these communities that the Board can achieve successful hospital administration, and the confidence of these communities in the Board's public practices, processes and procedures in the matters of hospital governance.

Sincerely yours,

Yvonne Bosch
Co-Chair

Bill Parish
Co-Chair

copy/ Natalie Bubela
Acting C.E.O. and President