

## When Will the Hospice Construction Start?

Stratford Perth Hospice has been working diligently to begin construction of our Residential Hospice this fall. Although it would have been wonderful to begin construction in September, we were notified in July that the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care has initiated a capital program to support the build of Residential Hospices in Ontario.

We are thrilled with this news as the program will provide capital funding up to \$200,000/bed for LHIN approved hospices. The Stratford Perth Hospice is an approved hospice and as such we have applied to this program. For Stratford this could mean funding from the ministry of up to \$2,000,000 if all 10 beds are approved (or up to \$1,200,000 if funding is only provided for the 6 beds we will be initially authorized to operate).

Although we are disappointed with not proceeding more quickly, this additional money is welcome news. The procedures for participating in this Ministry's Residential Hospice program include:

1. Completion of an application -- this application has already been submitted, approved by the South West Local Health Integration Network (SW LHIN) and forwarded to the Ministry. We are currently awaiting approval from the ministry to move on to the next stage of the approval process.
2. Completion of a Business Case – we have this information in hand and will proceed through this stage quickly.
3. Matching Funding -- we also must have community dollars in the bank and/or secured loans to meet the Ministry requirement of matching funds. We are very close to achieving this goal.
4. Permission to award construction contract -- the Ministry must approve our construction drawings before we can issue tenders and select a general contractor. While waiting for the Ministry's authorization we are reviewing our design to address cost increases in construction that have occurred since we set our budget 3 years ago.
5. Construction – once the Ministry has given us permission to tender and select a general contractor we will be able to **PUT SHOVELS IN THE GROUND!**

It is evident that this approval process will impact our ability to break ground this fall. As we get more information, we will share this with our supporters and donors.