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Liberals need to remember who they serve

Kevin Flynn's recent hospital revelations do not pass the smell test.

First, it is disingenuous of the Oakville MPP to suggest that 'construction capacity' issues surrounding the new Oakville Hospital were over-estimated by a cautious provincial government. Either way their baffle-gab from last spring delayed the project for more than a year.

Second, his suggestion that the PC government did nothing on this issue prior to 2003 is nonsense. The PC government started the process for a new hospital in 2001 with a business plan and moved to the second stage prior to the 2003 election, going so far as to provide the 50 acres of land required for construction. The Liberal government cancelled the project and did not restart it for two years. If Mr. Flynn and his Liberals had not stopped the process then, we would have a new hospital open today.

Readers may remember that last year the McGuinty Liberal government delayed the construction of the new hospital yet again citing a lack of 'construction capacity' among contractors in Ontario. In a recent Beaver article Mr. Flynn said the issue was not as significant as previously believed and that construction could begin as soon as the spring of 2011.

It escapes no one's notice that the next provincial election is scheduled for the autumn of 2011. It is disgusting for Mr. Flynn and the Liberals to use the much needed hospital in Oakville as political football.

Frankly, Mr. Flynn should be ashamed of himself. I offered him the opportunity to join me in my efforts to bring this issue to the attention of the government, to lay out the need here in Oakville; but he declined then, preferring to parrot the party line. Now he is fronting the latest attempt at spin by the provincial Liberals.

The whole 'construction capacity' issue was invented. When it was pushed forward by the Liberals construc-

tion in Ontario was already experiencing a significant decline. So much so that the McGuinty government took a trade mission to Dubai looking for work for Ontario construction companies in that fast developing country.

The Liberal government has absolutely no credibility on this issue. They forced development of Halton at a much faster pace than anticipated through their 'Places to Grow' exercise in central planning. They are responsible for health care infrastructure for all those new residents. They have failed. Their representative in the Region, Mr. Flynn has dropped the ball, preferring to make nice with his political masters, rather than serve the people of Oakville.

I have hammered away at this issue, sponsoring a petition, a letter writing campaign, and by bringing the issue to the Legislature at every opportunity. Mr. Flynn has been silent. His recent revelation suggests my efforts are having an impact and the Liberals, ever more concerned about electoral success than the people in the communities they serve, are setting themselves up for the 2011 election campaign.

The Liberals have extracted many millions in extra taxation from Halton residents through their unexpected Health Care Tax. They haven't used those funds to improve the access to health care for Oakville residents.

The care available at Oakville Trafalgar is wonderful. However, there isn't enough capacity available at that facility for a town of 170,000 people. OTMH was built to accommodate a population of perhaps half that. Building projects and redevelopments over the years have extended that capacity.

It's time for Mr. Flynn and his Liberal government to stop giving us shots of politics and start providing the necessary prescription to improve access to health care here in Oakville. It's time to drop the politics from the provision of our health care, and do the right thing by fast tracking the construction of the new hospital facility.