

## Savvas Chamberlain Script for the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 GRH Foundation event

Good afternoon

This event today is about cancer care in our community and about you. I would like to thank Ashley Howat, the President of the GRH Foundation for her hard work in organizing this event.

We are gathered here to celebrate the progress of the Digital Pathology Grand River Hospital Diagnostic project. Our contribution to this project compared to the hard work of all the project participants is small. But we are proud that The Savvas Chamberlain Family Foundation is able to contribute to the success of this project, I shall take this opportunity to thank the board of directors and board advisors of our Family Foundation for supporting this project.

I wish to make a disclosure to you: For a small part, I was involved with this project since approximately the middle of 2022. Some of the names of the project participants are mentioned in the Press release, copies of which are available here on the table at the front of the room, and, of course, one way or another you contributed to the ongoing success of this Digital Pathology Diagnostic work-flow project.

We are all familiar with cancer. We all have had family or personal experiences with cancer. There are so many different types of cancer. Quick diagnosis makes a lot of difference in the survival rate of the patient. This community is coming together to help fight cancer by helping to diagnose cancer quickly and efficiently.

This Digital Pathology work-flow project started at GRH more than two years ago. We arrived at this successful stage after a lot of **hard work** on the part of many local Canadian individuals.

I wish to highlight the local cooperative innovative process used in this project, because this innovative process can also be used in setting up the new Waterloo Region Hospital, which is being designed and developed. This new integrated hospital will be of great benefit to our community.

Back to the project. I would like to make another disclosure to you. One of my passions is to fight cancer. More than two years ago, I had meetings with the Grand River Hospital president, the GRH Foundation president, and many meetings with the GRH Chief Pathologist. I highlighted to them the emerging technology of Digital Pathology, and its potential advantages to fight cancer. I also highlighted that a local company, **Huron Digital Pathology in St Jacobs, Ontario**, has expertise in this area. It designs, manufactures and sells hardware and software for cancer care to world renown hospitals, including Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital, MD Anderson of United states, Julich Hospital in Germany, and others. Already these world renown hospitals are using the expertise and products of our local Huron Digital Pathology company towards cancer care. This company has more than 40 patents in the area of hardware and in AI innovations, all intended for cancer diagnostics.

I also told these leaders that funding for a Pilot Project at the GRH to fight cancer can become available from various sources, local companies, local individuals, and the Ontario Governments, provided that the leaders can support the commencement of such a project.

I shall tell you what happened after these meetings and how 'the GRH fight cancer' project started, but first let me tell you briefly about my own experiences with respect to our local community.

You came here today, because you care about the welfare of our community and its hospital services. Our community believes in cooperation, it believes in itself, it produces innovations, it believes in the commission and exploitation of these local innovations for the benefit of our community.

This Digital Pathology work-flow project is a good example. It is the result of the cooperation of our community business leaders, our hospital leaders, the chief pathologist, our university leaders, our high-tech business leaders, our entrepreneurs, our donors, and you. Such cooperation led in 2022 to the definition of the Digital Pathology pilot project, clearly defining its goals objectives and priorities. Once the project deliverables and schedules were defined, it was not difficult to get financial support from local donors, from OBIO, technical support from Huron Digital Pathology and other support from CanHealth. The highly motivated and hard-working GRH team did an excellent job in the development of this project. Today we see the successful and excellent results of such cooperation.

**Innovation and Cooperation for the common good is in the DNA of our local community. But of course for a successful project, we need to clearly define the deliverables and its goals, objectives and priorities.**

Finally, I shall leave you with another thought: We need to cooperate to develop local supply-chains for our hospitals. During the Covid-19 pandemic, our cancer patients encountered delays in the cancer treatment, in many cases because of lack of medical supplies. There was a shortage of important medical supplies, because our border to the US was closed. We buy more than 90% of our basic hospital supplies from the US and abroad.

What can we do to remedy this situation? Well, we need to use our Canadian Innovations to develop competitive Canadian manufacturers and secure local and Canadian supply-chains for our hospital medical supplies, not only like the new Digital Pathology work-flow, but, in the long term, we need to develop Canadian suppliers for medical face masks, bandages, hospital gowns, syringes, vaccines, basic medicines, and other new-technology hospital supply items.

We need to exploit our Canadian Innovations, but to do this we also need leadership from our governments. Our hospital supplies should be part of our Canadian National Security policy. We can urge our local, provincial and federal officials to do this. OBIO and Can Health understand this - they work hard, but do not have enough government resources and they do not have the long-term mandate. Remember, both of these organizations contributed to the success of this project.

In your own way you have also helped to improve our regional hospital system, and I am sure you will continue to do this in the future. Our family and I are proud to be part of this community. Thank you.