

Ontario Improving Access to Care in Halton

Province Increasing Investment in Hospitals to Support Patients and Families

NEWS

November 25, 2016

Ontario is improving access to care in Halton, helping to reduce wait times and support increased access to services that patients and families rely on.

MPP's Indira Naidoo-Harris and Kevin Flynn were at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital in Oakville to highlight the new investment. Halton Healthcare is receiving \$3,005,100 this year to improve access to care and reduce the length of hospital stays for patients and families in Halton.

Recently announced in the [2016 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review](#), the new investment from the province ensures that all public hospitals in Ontario have received, at a minimum, a two per cent increase to their base funding this year. Additional funding has been provided to hospitals to support population growth and changing health care needs in their communities.

Improving access to hospital services is part of the government's plan to build a better Ontario through its Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care, which provides patients with faster access to the right care; better home and community care; the information they need to live healthy; and a health care system that is sustainable for generations to come.

QUOTES

"Our government is committed to providing Halton residents, with the best possible care. Halton is in the middle of a major health care modernization, including brand new facilities and major expansion projects. This additional investment ensures that our community will have access to quality health services."

— Indira Naidoo-Harris, MPP Halton

"Providing patients with access to the highest quality of care is the cornerstone of Ontario's health care policy. Recent investments by the Ontario government into health care in Oakville have provided residents with a state-of-the-art hospital that is a safe and welcoming place for patients and their loved ones throughout all stages of life. This additional hospital funding from the Ontario government that we're announcing today will ultimately support better care for patients and reduce wait times."

— Kevin Flynn, MPP Oakville

"In recent years, hospitals have become more efficient while improving patient care, even as they face increased demand for services. Through this additional investment, our government is committed to ensuring hospitals maintain a high level of care to address the increased health care needs of a growing and aging population."

— Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

"On behalf of the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA), I would like to thank the Government of Ontario for supporting hospitals with this needed investment as they work to provide care to

patients under challenging circumstances. The resources made available, thanks to today's announcement, will help ensure continued access to high quality health services in communities across Ontario."

— Anthony Dale, President and CEO, Ontario Hospital Association

"Today's announcement is welcome news as it recognizes the increasing healthcare needs of our growing and aging communities in Halton. This investment will help us meet that demand and continue to provide the exemplary care our patients have come to expect from us."

—Denise Hardenne, President & CEO, Halton Healthcare

"Our emergency departments and hospitals are critical to helping patients when they are at their sickest. As patient need continues to rise, this funding will help Halton Healthcare preserve core services and improve access to the high quality care that people in Halton Hills, Oakville and Milton expect."

— Bill MacLeod, CEO, Mississauga Halton LHIN

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is investing an additional \$140 million in public hospitals across the province to ensure that they continue to meet the growing needs of their local communities. This new funding builds on an increase of more than \$345 million for Ontario's hospitals as part of the 2016 Budget.
- There are 147 public hospitals in Ontario.
- This year's \$51.8 billion health care budget is a 2.1 per cent increase over last year – greater than the rate of inflation.
- According to a recent report from the Fraser Institute, Ontario has the shortest median wait times to see a specialist in the country. The province has committed to further reducing specialist wait times in The Minister of Health and Long-Term Care's [most recent mandate letter](#).

LEARN MORE

[2016 Ontario Budget](#)

[Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#)

Communications Contact:

MPP Naidoo-Harris's office: *Meghan Sinclair* | 905-878-1729

MPP Flynn's Office: *Liz Young* | 905-827-5141