

Ontario Investing Over \$13 Million in Health Care for Kingston*2016 Budget Includes New Investments in Hospital Infrastructure and Programs***NEWS**

August 2, 2016

As part of the 2016 Budget, Ontario is continuing to make greater investments in Ontario's health care system to give Ontarians faster access to the right care, now and in the future. As part of the province's \$51.8 billion investment in health care for 2016-17, Ontario will be investing over \$13 million in the Kingston area.

Patients will benefit from:

- \$2.5 million to support early planning for potential future capital investments at the Kingston General Hospital redevelopment
- \$6.7 million increase in operating funding to Kingston General Hospital
- \$3.9 million increase in operating funding to Providence Care in Kingston
- \$550,000 increase in operating funding to Kingston's Hotel Dieu
- More than \$58,000 for the continuation of the local community paramedicine pilot program that helps seniors and other patients live independently longer and reduces emergency room visits and hospital admissions.

This is in addition to the province's investment of more than \$770 million for the New Providence Care Hospital project, a brand new 270-bed state of the art facility.

Through recent actions to transform health care, the province has increased patients' access to primary care, provided more care for people at home, and reduced wait times for surgeries, diagnostic procedures and emergency department care.

Increasing investments in health care 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

"With this new and important funding, we are working to ensure that patients in the Kingston region have faster access to the right care, now and in the future. Making these necessary investments in our health care system is part of our commitment to put patients first by ensuring they get the high-quality health care they need — when they need it."

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

"We are so grateful to be receiving an increase of over \$11 million in funding for all three of our Kingston hospitals. Furthermore, we are very excited about the additional investment of \$2.5 million to specifically support the next phase of the proposed redevelopment at Kingston General Hospital. This is a clear indication of the province's commitment to modernize, expand and improve the patient experience at our hospitals."

— Sophie Kiwala, MPP, Kingston and the Islands

"We are proud to soon open our doors to Providence Care Hospital — the first hospital in North America to accommodate long-term, specialized inpatient mental health care in the same building as complex care and rehabilitation. These investments will allow us to continue to enhance the

quality of life for our patients, clients, residents and their families by incorporating the latest technology and best practice designs. Within the walls of the new hospital we will continue to serve the most vulnerable and meet the needs of those who need our care and services. Our many community programs throughout Southeastern Ontario will also benefit from this funding — enabling staff to continue to provide excellent, high quality care."

— Cathy Szabo, President & CEO of Providence Care

QUICK FACTS

- At the height of construction, the Providence Care project peaked at almost 700 workers on site. There are roughly 500 workers on site now.
- The Providence Care project will reach total completion by November 2016 and will be ready to serve patients in May 2017.
- The province is providing over \$5 million in Home and Community Care for the Southeast LHIN to enhance support for home care clients with high needs and their caregivers.
- Community paramedicine allows paramedics to apply their training and skills beyond emergency response and transportation to an emergency department.
- Between 2010 and 2014, the number of physicians in the city of Kingston rose from 611 to 666 and the number of nurses rose from 2,933 to 3,208.
- The province plans to invest \$12 billion over 10 years in hospital capital grants to build modern infrastructure. Approximately 35 major hospital projects are now underway or in planning across Ontario.
- Ontario's health care budget has increased from \$47.6 billion in 2012–13 to a total of \$51.8 billion in 2016–17.
- This year's \$51.8 billion investment in health care is a 2.1 per cent increase over last year, which is greater than the rate of inflation.

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[2016 Ontario Budget](#)

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

[Providence Care](#)

[Kingston General Hospital](#)

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