



## **Lou Rinaldi, M.P.P.**

Northumberland-Quinte West

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Stronger Hospitals, Better Care for Northumberland**

*Major Funding Boost Will Reduce Wait Times, Address Capacity Issues and Provide Better Care Closer to Home*

Ontario is investing an additional \$4,100,000 in Northumberland Hills Hospital. This is part of the province's commitment to invest an additional \$822 million investment in Ontario hospitals in 2018–19.

MPP Lou Rinaldi was at Northumberland Hills Hospital to explain how this major increase in hospital funding will provide better access to care, reduce wait times, address capacity issues and better meet the needs of the changing population in Northumberland.

This overall increase of \$822,000,000 across the province is on top of the funding provided last year — allowing hospitals to invest with more precision in the care and supports that address the specific needs of their patients and community.

Patients and families across Ontario will also directly benefit from this increased funding with the expansion of essential services to reduce wait times and priority procedures such as cardiac care, critical care, chemotherapy, treatment for strokes, hip and knee replacements, and medical imaging.

Increasing funding to hospitals and access to high-quality health care across the province is part of the government's plan to support care, create opportunity and make life more affordable during this period of rapid economic change. The plan includes a higher minimum wage and better working conditions, free tuition for hundreds of thousands of students, easier access to affordable child care, and free prescription drugs for everyone under 25, and 65 or over, through the biggest expansion of medicare in a generation.

#### **QUOTES**

"This represents one of the most significant funding increases in Ontario history. I am proud of the support our government has always given to our hospitals and their operations. This allows for greater services and reduced wait times at Northumberland Hills Hospital for those accessing their services."

— Lou Rinaldi M.P.P. Northumberland Quinte West

"We are committed to making sure hospitals have the resources and supports they need to meet the needs of growing and aging communities. With this historic investment, publicly funded hospitals can increase capacity, decrease wait times and improve access to care for families across Ontario."

— Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

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“This is long awaited positive news for Northumberland Hills Hospital and the growing, aging community we are here to serve. The increased funding announced today, of which \$2.3 M has been committed to our base—and is therefore ongoing—represents a welcome turning point for NHH. Thank you to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Central East LHIN for this acknowledgement of the long-standing financial shortfall that could not be corrected through efficiencies alone. These dollars will help NHH reduce wait times, address capacity issues and improve access to care while sustaining the core services our aging and growing community requires. In addition to this welcome injection to our operating base is the further \$1.8 M in one-time funding. This will provide NHH with the ability to fund the much greater than normal patient volumes experienced by our team in the past year, including those alternative level of care (ALC) patients awaiting a more suitable care option elsewhere, while longer term system solutions for ALC can be found.”

— Linda Davis, President and CEO, Northumberland Hills Hospital

“This is a great day for Northumberland Hills Hospital. On behalf of the Board of Directors and our Community Members, I thank the Ministry of Health for this investment in west Northumberland and our MPP, Lou Rinaldi, for his advocacy on our behalf. These dollars recognize the changing needs of this community and the importance of the vital services NHH provides, close to home.”

— Elizabeth Selby, Board Chair, Northumberland Hills Hospital

“Hospitals are an important part of the integrated system of care delivered across the Central East Local Health Integration Network. With today's announcement, our hospital systems are further strengthened in their role as acute care providers in the Central East LHIN sub-regions as integrated teams of physicians, nurses, hospitals, community-based health care providers and other partners work together to improve the health and well-being of their local communities.”

— Deborah Hammons, Chief Executive Officer, Central East LHIN

## **QUICK FACTS**

- In February 2018, Ontario renewed its support to address increased need for hospital beds with a \$187 million investment in 2018–19 that further supports access to care and reduced wait times.
- Hospital operating funding in Ontario has increased by more than 65 per cent, from \$11.3 billion in 2003–04 to almost \$19 billion in 2018-19.
- The province invested an additional \$100 million in 2017–18 in home care supports and services.
- Ontario is creating 5,000 long-term care beds over the next four years and more than 30,000 over the next decade.
- Ontario is launching a historic expansion of mental health and addiction services, with the biggest provincial investment in Canadian history — an increase of \$2.1 billion over four years.
- Starting in August 2019, Ontario plans to make prescription drugs free for seniors through OHIP+ for seniors 65 and over, building on the province's biggest expansion of medicare in a generation that has already made prescription medications free for everyone under the age of 25.

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