



# JOE DICKSON, MPP

Ajax - Pickering

## **Mental health and addiction beds coming to Ajax** *Government funds mental health inpatient unit in Lakeridge Health*

November 6, 2017

### **NEWS**

Ontario is improving access to mental health care in Ajax by investing \$4.6 million to operate a new mental health inpatient unit at Lakeridge Health's Ajax-Pickering Site.

Joe Dickson, MPP for Ajax-Pickering, was at Lakeridge Health's Ajax-Pickering site today to announce that Ontario's investment in a mental health inpatient unit at the hospital has reached a milestone.

The initiative will restore at least 20 mental health beds to create a mental health inpatient unit. This initiative is part of a commitment made in 2016 by the government to improve access to high-quality health care in Scarborough and Durham.

Lakeridge Health is working with the ministry and the Central East Local Health Integration Network to develop space at the Ajax-Pickering Site for this inpatient unit.

Ontario is increasing access to care, reducing wait times and improving the patient experience through its [Patients First Action Plan for Health Care](#) and [OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare](#) - protecting health care today and into the future.

### **QUOTES**

"Thank you to Lakeridge Health for its continued work with our government and the Central East LHIN to create 20 new mental health inpatient beds at the Ajax-Pickering Site. Our government prioritizes the creation of a mental health care system where patients have quick access to the right type of mental health care, close to home. Investing in the operation of programs like this helps bring us one step closer to making this health care system a reality."

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



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“It is a great day for our Ajax-Pickering hospital. During the recent integration of the Ajax-Pickering hospital with Lakeridge Health, I made it very clear to our Minister of Health that the restoration of Ajax-Pickering’s mental health unit with at least 20 mental health beds was imperative. I would like to thank the Hon. Dr. Eric Hoskins for bringing back those 20 mental health beds. I am very happy that we will be able to support those people in our community that are struggling with mental health and addiction.”

– **Joe Dickson, MPP, Ajax-Pickering**

“Today's announcement is great news for the community. It means patients and families in Ajax and Pickering will have greater access to the mental health services they need right here at home in the community,” said Lakeridge Health President and CEO Matthew Anderson. ”

– **Matthew Anderson, CEO, Lakeridge Health**

“Today's announcement is welcome news as the Central East LHIN continues to work with Lakeridge Health and other stakeholders, including community agencies, primary care providers, police, EMS and people with lived experience, to ensure that local residents are supported to achieve an optimal level of mental health. Lakeridge Health is an integral part of the health care continuum in the LHIN's two Durham sub-regions and the merger of Ajax Pickering Hospital into Lakeridge has confirmed its role in providing vital hospital services to the residents of West Durham. The restoration of the 20 in-patient mental health beds is good news for this community and good news for the LHIN and we look forward to seeing these beds open as soon as possible.”

– **Deborah Hammons, CEO, Central East Local Health Integration Network**

## QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is providing \$140 million to make more hospital beds available and enhance home care services. This investment includes \$100 million for hospitals to address increased demands for care, and \$40 million for post-hospital and preventative care at home.
- Ontario is providing \$72.6 million of additional funding over the next three years to support psychotherapy programs. This is part of the province’s \$140 million investment in mental health services over three years, which is in addition to the \$3.7 billion that Ontario invested in mental health services in 2015-16.



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- Over the next three years, Ontario is investing more than \$222 million to combat the opioid crisis in Ontario, including expanding harm reduction services, hiring more front-line staff and improving access to addictions supports across the province.
- Approximately 30 per cent of people in Ontario will experience mental illness and/or substance abuse at some point in their lifetime.

## LEARN MORE

- [Additional 2,000 Patient Beds Across Ontario](#)
- [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#)