



# GRANVILLE ANDERSON, MPP

Durham

## Ontario Expanding Addiction Supports in Durham

*Province Opening New Addiction Clinic at Lakeridge Health Oshawa Hospital*

NEWS

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Ontario is working with Lakeridge Health in Oshawa to expand access to addiction supports in the wake of the ongoing opioid crisis.

Lakeridge Health is opening a new Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) clinic to improve access to comprehensive care for people in Durham living with addiction. These clinics provide people with immediate help and short-term addiction treatment, as well as counselling, until they can be connected to longer-term holistic support.

Across Ontario, more than 30 communities will benefit from new or expanded RAAM clinics.

Ontario has also recently expanded access to naloxone, a life-saving drug that can temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Naloxone kits are currently available for free at [participating pharmacies](#) and from eligible community and health organizations.

### QUOTES

“The new RAAM clinic here in Durham will help us to provide better access to care for those living with addictions—so that we can stop the tragic and avoidable deaths that result from the opioid crisis. In combination with the significant investments our government is making to combat this issue, today’s announcement will help to save lives.”

— Granville Anderson, MPP Durham

“The Central East LHIN, together with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and in partnership with its health service providers and other partners, is focused on addressing the opioid crisis. Across our LHIN we have seen an increase in the number of opioid overdoses being treated in our hospital emergency departments. The opening of the Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) clinic at Lakeridge Health Oshawa will have an immediate impact on our ability to support individuals dealing with an opiate addiction.”

— Deborah Hammons, CEO, Central East LHIN



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“Lakeridge Health Emergency Departments are among the busiest in the province for treating people experiencing mental health and addictions related conditions. The RAAM clinics will help our team provide ‘barrier-free’ access to immediate and ongoing addiction treatment, counselling and other mental health supports for those needing support and care, while helping to reduce wait times in our Emergency Departments, ambulatory services and the number of inpatient admissions to our mental health and addictions programs.”

— Matthew Anderson, Lakeridge Health President & CEO

## QUICK FACTS

- Ontario has established an Opioid Emergency Task Force that includes front-line workers and people with lived experience to strengthen the province's coordinated response to the opioid crisis.
- 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 addiction supports across the province.
- The government has also committed to invest \$20 million annually in Ontario's Chronic Pain Network.
- Ontario is working with Health Quality Ontario and other partner organizations to provide customized prescribing data, mentoring, education and other supports for physicians to learn best practices for supporting people with opioid use disorder, and for safe opioid prescribing and effective approaches to managing pain.

## LEARN MORE

- [Where to Get Naloxone Kits and How to Use Them](#)
- [Ontario's Strategy to Prevent Opioid Addiction and Overdose](#)
- [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#)

For more information contact:

Laura Barrett  
Public Relations & Outreach, Office of MPP Granville Anderson  
905-697-1501