



Central East

LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK

NEWS RELEASE

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ONTARIO GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN MORE CRITICAL CARE BEDS

Funding Will Enhance Hospital Resources For Better Access To Emergency Care

Ajax – The Ontario government is investing \$1.5 million so that patients will have better access to critical care services at the Ajax Pickering site of the Rouge Valley Health System, Wayne Arthurs, MPP, Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge announced today on behalf of Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman.

“We are making sure Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering (RVAP) hospital can respond effectively to the needs of critically ill patients,” said Arthurs. “This investment will also help the hospital’s emergency department respond better to patient needs by ensuring critical care patients are able to get the care they need.”

The investment will go toward the operation of an additional three critical care beds at RVAP. The new critical care beds will ensure that critically ill patients flow through the emergency department to the intensive care unit. There they will receive 24/7 care from specialized health care teams. It is anticipated that each of these beds will provide access for an additional 47 patients per year.

“Critical Care is one of the five key priorities identified in the Central East Local Health Integration Network’s Integrated Health Service Plan,” said Foster Loucks, Chair of the Central East LHIN Board of Directors. “In that report the LHIN identified a need for additional critical care resources to meet the demands of our population and today’s announcement is a positive step forward.”

“These new resources are integral to the current development of a critical care system for the entire Central East region,” said Dr. Howard Clasky, Critical Care Lead for the Central East LHIN. “Physician leadership from all Central East LHIN hospitals are working together to ensure that patients can access these highly specialized services without having to be transferred outside the Central East region.”

“These new ICU beds will help address a crucial need in our quickly growing west Durham communities. We thank the province for recognizing this need,” says Rik Ganderton, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of Rouge Valley Health System. “Our physicians look forward to continuing to work with Dr. Clasky on improving the critical care system in the Central East.”

Today’s announcement is part of a \$7.5 million investment to fund 13 additional critical care beds at seven hospitals under the province’s \$142 million Emergency Department Action Plan. The Plan, announced in October 2006, aims to relieve pressures in hospital emergency departments and to ensure that the health care system has increased capacity to meet the needs of Ontario patients.

“We recognize that hospital emergency departments do not operate in isolation from other health care services,” Smitherman said. “This investment reflects our belief that building capacity in areas such as critical care services will address many of the challenges facing emergency departments.”

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