

NEWS RELEASE

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MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT EXPANDING CANCER CARE SERVICES IN OTTAWA

Renovation And New Construction Projects Will Mean Better Access To High-Quality Care

OTTAWA -- The Ontario government is strengthening cancer care in Ottawa by expanding services at The Ottawa Hospital and the Queensway Carleton Hospital, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty announced today.

"By expanding cancer care in Ottawa, we're giving people more opportunities to lead healthier, fuller lives," said Premier McGuinty.

The Ottawa Hospital Regional Cancer Centre project is an

integrated cancer program that aims to improve cancer treatment by expanding radiation and associated cancer services at the two local hospitals.

At the Ottawa Hospital, the project includes adding two new radiation machines and enhancing radiation therapy equipment at the General site. This will improve access to cancer treatment by increasing the total number of radiation machines from six to eight.

At the Queensway Carleton Hospital, renovations will create space for three radiation machines. This will make it possible to provide more Ottawa area patients with radiation therapy and related cancer services. Renovations and new construction are expected to begin in 2007-08.

"This project will ensure people in this community have access to the modern, effective health care they need and deserve," said Minister of Health and Long-Term Care George Smitherman.

These improvements are part of ReNew Ontario, the government's \$30-billion, five-year investment in infrastructure. Under this plan, the McGuinty government and its partners are investing \$5 billion over the next five years to improve Ontario's health care facilities.

"The McGuinty government is renewing Ontario's public infrastructure, and this project is an essential part of our plan to modernize hospitals, reduce waiting times and upgrade medical equipment throughout our province," Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal David Caplan said. "Our infrastructure investments are helping us build a stronger, healthier and more prosperous province."



Premier Dalton McGuinty announces that cancer patients and their families will benefit from shorter wait times for treatment because of the new Ottawa Hospital Regional Cancer Center.

"We congratulate the government for committing to build a new cancer centre in Ottawa," said Terry Sullivan, President and CEO of Cancer Care Ontario. "This is very good news for the people in this area who will be diagnosed with cancer in the years to come. It means that patients in Ottawa and the surrounding area will have better and more timely cancer care."

The government has approved the cancer centre program as an alternative financing and procurement project. This means the construction work will be financed and carried out by the private sector, which will assume the financial risks for ensuring that the project is finished on time and on budget. The completed facility will be publicly owned, controlled and accountable.

"Once again, our government has shown its commitment to health care for the province of Ontario and in particular to citizens of the Ottawa area," said Jim Watson, Minister of Health Promotion. "This funding will ensure that our cancer patients in Ottawa receive the best treatments possible and I'm particularly proud that the Queensway Carleton hospital will play an important role with the regional cancer centre."

"The Ottawa Hospital Regional Cancer Centre is an exciting and dynamic place where health care professionals work together to improve care, find new treatments and enhance the quality of life of our patients," said Dr. Jack Kitts President and CEO of The Ottawa Hospital. "Building on our foundation of excellence, this newest satellite clinic at the Queensway Carleton Hospital will allow us to work together in the fight against cancer, providing patients with every choice and every chance. We commend the government's commitment to making this a priority for our community."

"Today is a very exciting day for our community and the staff, physicians, volunteers and patients at Queensway Carleton Hospital," said Tom Schonberg, Hospital President and CEO. "It is the collaborative commitment of the local health partners -- the Ottawa Hospital, the Queensway Carleton Hospital, the province and the community -- that has made this vision for an expanded cancer centre achievable."

"Investments in modern hospital infrastructure are investments in modern patient care services," said Hilary Short, President and CEO of the Ontario Hospital Association. "We welcome today's important investments in The Ottawa Hospital and the Queensway Carleton Hospital, and we look forward to further investments like these in the months and years ahead."

"We are committed to providing health care workers with all the tools they need to fight cancer and improve health," said Premier McGuinty. "Today's announcement is another sign that we're making progress on our plan to strengthen our province by strengthening the health of our people."