

Ontario Improving Access to Care by Building More Hospice Beds in Durham

Province Expanding Compassionate End-of-Life Care Services to End Hallway Health Care

NEWS

February 6, 2020

BOWMANVILLE — Ontario is expanding compassionate end-of-life care services for patients and their families by creating more palliative care options outside of hospital, which helps to end hallway health care and build safer and healthier communities.

Today, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, was at the Bowmanville Older Adult Association to announce up to \$800,000 in additional one-time capital funding to support the construction of four additional beds at Durham Hospice. This funding will bring the total number of hospice beds to nine. Once open, the province will provide \$945,000 annually in operational funding to support end-of-life care for about 138 patients per year.

"Our government is building more hospice beds to help patients and families receive the compassionate end-of-life care they expect and deserve as part of our plan to end hallway health care," said Elliott. "Durham Hospice will provide patients in Durham Region with palliative care in a comfortable home-like space, where they can be close to loved ones."

In December 2018, Ontario announced up to \$1 million in one-time capital funding for Durham Hospice to support the construction of five beds. The total combined capital funding is now up to \$1.8 million. Durham Hospice will provide 24/7 professional nursing and personal support services, caregiver supports, grief and bereavement services, and pain and symptom management.

"We are tremendously grateful to the Ministry of Health for their investment in new hospice beds in Clarington that will serve all residents of Durham Region," said Melodie Zarzecny, Chair of Durham Hospice Clarington. "With support from the ministry, elected officials at all levels, business leaders, businesses and residents across the region, we will soon be able to offer patients the end-of-life comfort, care and compassion that hospices encompass."

Ontario has a comprehensive plan to end hallway health care, which includes making investments and advancing new initiatives across four pillars:

1. **Prevention and health promotion:** keeping patients as healthy as possible in their communities and out of hospitals.
2. **Providing the right care in the right place:** when patients need care, ensure that they receive it in the most appropriate setting, not always the hospital. This includes expanding access to end-of-life, palliative care in communities across Ontario.
3. **Integration and improved patient flow:** better integrate care providers to ensure patients spend less time waiting in hospitals when they are ready to move to more appropriate care settings, including hospices
4. **Building capacity:** build new hospital and long-term care beds while increasing community-based services across Ontario, including building and funding new hospice beds in Durham region.

Quick facts:

- Ontario is investing over \$36 million to build more than 200 new residential hospice beds across the province. When these beds open, the government will provide over \$21 million each year in operational funding for nursing, personal support and other services delivered to patients in these beds.

Additional resources:

- [Ontario's Government for the People Supporting Compassionate End-Of-Life Care](#)

For public inquiries call ServiceOntario, INFOline at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only)

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