



NEWS RELEASE

MPP David Piccini

Ontario Expanding End-of-Life Care in Clarington

*More hospice beds coming to Clarington as a part of Province's plan to
End Hallway Health Care*

NEWS

February 06, 2020

CLARINGTON, ON — Ontario is expanding compassionate end-of-life care services for patients and families to create more appropriate palliative care options outside of hospital, while helping end hallway health care.

Today, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, was joined by David Piccini, MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South, Lindsey Park, MPP for Durham, and Lorne Coe, MPP for Whitby to announce up to \$800,000 in additional one-time capital funding to support the construction of four additional beds at Durham Hospice Clarington. This funding will bring the total number of hospice beds to nine. Once open, the province will provide up to \$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 the Durham Region with palliative care in a comfortable home-like space, where they can be close to loved ones."

By increasing the number of hospice beds our government is ensuring that Durham Hospice Clarington will be able to provide more residents with quality, compassionate end-of-life care in a comfortable setting that is close to home," said MPP Piccini. "All of our residents and families deserve access to dignified end-of-life care and our government fully supports the remarkable Hospice teams around our province, like this one right here in Clarington."

"We are tremendously grateful today to the Ministry of Health for its support of new hospice beds in Clarington that will serve all residents of Durham Region," said Melodie Zarzeczny, Chair, 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 comfort, care and compassion at end of life that hospice care encompasses."

In December 2018, Ontario announced up to \$1 million in one-time capital funding for Durham Hospice Clarington to support the construction of five beds. With today's

announcement, the total combined capital funding is now up to \$1.8 million to support the construction of nine beds.

Durham Hospice Clarington will provide residential hospice services, including 24/7 professional nursing and personal support services, caregiver supports, grief and bereavement services, and pain and symptom management.

Funding hospices is part of our government's plan to centre integrated health care around patients, families and caregivers. By investing in hospice beds, we are also opening more hospital beds up for acute care and helping end hallway health care.

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QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is investing \$35.2 million to build 201 planned residential hospice beds across the province. When these beds open over the next three years, the government will provide \$21.1 million each year in operational funding for nursing, personal support, and other services delivered to patients in these beds.

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