

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Ontario Makes Major Investment in Kingston Hospitals****McGuinty government on the side of Ontario families who want the best health care**

**KINGSTON**—Residents of the Kingston area will have improved access to health and cancer care, thanks to major provincial government investments in the Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario at Kingston General Hospital and a grant for Hotel Dieu Hospital, John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and MPP for Kingston and the Islands announced today along with David Caplan, Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal.

"These government investments will improve access to health care for residents of Kingston and all of Southeastern Ontario," said Gerretsen. "The projects are important to everyone in the region – adults, children and families – who will be able to get the highest quality care they need and deserve, as close to home as possible."

"We are on the side of Ontario families who want the best health care," said Caplan. "That is why we're investing in the Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario and Hotel Dieu Hospital. These initiatives are two of many hospital projects planned across the province as our government gives Ontarians better access to health care and cuts wait times for key services."

These projects build on the government's November, 2005 announcements of renovation and expansion projects for Kingston General and Hotel Dieu hospitals and a planning and design grant for the Providence Continuing Care Centre. These projects will contribute to the overall development of a truly integrated health care system for Kingston.

The Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario project includes the redevelopment of adult chemotherapy and clinical support services as well as the children's cancer care centre, one of only five centres in the province offering cancer treatment services to children.

Construction is expected to begin in 2008-2009.

Hotel Dieu Hospital will receive a planning and design grant of up to \$2 million to help complete a previously announced upgrade that includes consolidation and renovations required for the hospital to be the acute ambulatory care facility for Kingston. A traditional government financing approach will be used for the Hotel Dieu Hospital renovation project.

Construction is expected to begin in 2007-2008.

"These projects 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. "It is an essential part of our plan to modernize hospitals, reduce wait times and upgrade equipment in this area and throughout the province."

"Patients who receive care at the Cancer Care of Southeastern Ontario at Kingston General Hospital know there is something special about our services and the people who provide them," said Joe de Mora, the hospital's president and CEO. "Today's announcement allows us to take that care to a new level as we

move forward with a major expansion of the centre. For people fighting cancer, this project means faster treatment in a facility that safeguards dignity."

"We very much appreciate Mr. Gerretsen's support and the support of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal for our shared vision for Kingston's Hospitals," said Hugh Graham, Executive Director of Hotel Dieu Hospital. "This planning grant will allow us to take the next step toward relocating remaining ambulatory clinics to Hotel Dieu, and will provide much needed space relief at the hospital."

"With the expansion of the Kingston Regional Cancer Centre, the Ontario government has delivered on all of the recommendations about cancer centre expansion made by Cancer Care Ontario in the Ontario Cancer Plan," said Terry Sullivan, President and CEO of Cancer Care Ontario. "More cancer centres have been built, expanded and committed to over the last two years than ever before in Ontario."

The Government of Ontario has approved the Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario initiative 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 project risks for ensuring delivery on time and on budget. The completed facility will be publicly owned and controlled.

Under the province's ReNew Ontario infrastructure investment plan, the McGuinty government and its partners are investing \$5 billion over five years to improve Ontario's health care facilities.

The McGuinty government is on the side of Ontario families who want the best health care. Other initiatives include:

- Expanded access to doctors, nurses and health care professionals with 3,062 new nursing positions and 150 family health teams, when fully operational, providing better care for more than 2.5 million Ontarians.
- Adding seven new and/or expanded MRI services, replacing seven old machines with new ones and replacing 31 old CT scanners with 64 new ones.
- Reduced wait times by funding 31,000 additional surgical procedures: 24 per cent more MRI exams, seven per cent more cancer surgeries, 20 per cent more hip and knee replacements, 15 per cent more cataract surgeries and seven per cent more cardiac procedures.

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**Background**



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