

Ontario Acting on Expert Report for Scarborough and Durham Health Care

Greater Investment and Improved Integration for Local Acute Health Care Services

NEWS

April 28, 2016

Today, Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, supported the implementation of recommendations from the final report of the Scarborough/West Durham Panel related to hospital governance, service delivery and planning to give patients better access to care in the community.

The Central East Local Health Integration Network – a geographic catchment area of local health coordination – serves more than 1.4 million residents, or 11 per cent of Ontario's population. This large community requires expert advice on how to ensure that people get the best acute care possible.

Drawing from extensive community consultations, the expert panel, led by Dr. Barry McLellan, provided recommendations to improve integration and access to hospital services in the Scarborough and West Durham regions.

Starting today, Ontario is taking the next steps:

- Mr. Mark Rochon has been appointed as a special advisor to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and will advance the integration efforts between hospitals in the Scarborough and Durham regions.
- Ontario will be providing capital funding to The Scarborough Hospital to better integrate and expand diagnostic imaging services at the General Campus. This investment will translate to improved services in radiography, fluoroscopy, interventional imaging, cross sectional imaging, CT scanning, ultrasound, breast imaging and nuclear medicine.
- Ontario will also be providing up to \$5 million for a planning grant to develop a Master Plan for each of the Scarborough and Durham region hospitals. This will inform any future major capital redevelopments. This planning grant will also support the redevelopment of the Emergency Department at Rouge Valley Health System Centenary site.

The province also announced a new investment of over \$10 million in local hospitals as part of the 2016 Budget, which includes:

- \$4.5 million in increased operating funds for Rouge Valley Health System
- \$2.9 million in new operating funding for The Scarborough Hospital
- An additional \$2.6 million in operating funding for Lakeridge Health

Improving access to local health care and investing in hospitals is part of the government's plan to build a better Ontario through its Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care, which is providing patients with faster access to the right care; better home and community care; the information they need to live healthy; and a health care system that is sustainable for generations to come.

QUOTES

"I'm excited to announce the steps we are taking to help give patients in Scarborough and Durham better access to high-quality care in the community. The appointment of Mr. Mark Rochon as special advisor demonstrates our government's commitment to ensuring that we move ahead on

the Panel's recommendations to improve integration and access to acute care services in the region. With our investments we are addressing the immediate community needs, as well as long term solutions for patients in the Scarborough and Durham regions."

— Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

"This report begins the necessary dialogue around regionalized care. I am pleased with the content and direction of the report and believe that its outcomes will help in strengthening our healthcare system in Durham and beyond. I look forward to working together with my colleagues to make this a reality.

— Granville Anderson, MPP for Durham

"Today's announcement will ensure that my constituents in Scarborough and Pickering have continued access to excellent, patient-focused health care. The announcement today represents exceptional opportunities for our local health care systems while keeping an eye to the growing population east of downtown Toronto."

— Tracy MacCharles, MPP for Pickering-Scarborough East

"As the MPP representing Scarborough-Agincourt, I am very pleased with Minister Hoskins's announcement today on the enhanced integrated care delivery. It will help to improve specialized services such as mental health and addictions, obstetrics and neonatal care, chronic kidney disease and dialysis, stroke and palliative care."

— Soo Wong, MPP for Scarborough-Agincourt

"The members of the expert panel have worked long and hard to provide many significant improvements for all areas in Scarborough and Durham Region. I look forward to working together to grow and improve health care in Durham Region as a whole, and in Ajax and Pickering specifically for my constituents of today, and for future generations to come."

— Joe Dickson, MPP for Ajax-Pickering

"The Panel's recommendations put patients first, ensuring residents of Scarborough can access the healthcare they need, now and into the future. Residents will continue to receive seamless care across the region, such as the excellent regional cardiac and kidney care programs, and can look forward to enhanced community care services that support healthy outcomes as our region continues to grow."

— Mitzie Hunter, MPP for Scarborough-Guildwood

"This is the game changer for Scarborough healthcare that will improve and modernize our healthcare services today and for the next generation. Our dream of a brand new, modern, state of the art hospital for Scarborough is now becoming a reality. I am thrilled for our community."

— Brad Duguid, MPP for Scarborough-Centre

"The findings of this report will be a useful tool in helping to provide more effective and efficient care to residents in Scarborough Southwest. Our health care system is among the best in the world, and it's vital that we continue finding ways for hospitals and other medical facilities to improve access and integration of their services to meet the needs of Ontarians. I firmly believe that this report will be a big step forward in achieving this goal."

— Lorenzo Berardinetti, MPP for Scarborough Southwest

QUICK FACTS

- In March 2014, a merger between The Scarborough Hospital (TSH) and Rouge Valley Health System (RVHS) did not proceed as had been originally planned.
- In April 2015, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced the creation of the Scarborough/West Durham Panel to develop a plan to address how hospitals in the region could work together to deliver acute services to meet the needs of local residents.
- The Scarborough/West Durham Panel conducted community consultations including focus groups, in-hospital surveys and town hall meetings, which informed its recommendations.

- The group worked in collaboration with the Central East LHIN, other neighbouring LHINs and local health care service providers, including Rouge Valley Health System, The Scarborough Hospital and Lakeridge Health.
- The expert panel's report builds on previous work developed by Rouge Valley Health System and The Scarborough Hospital, including the [Preferred Integration Plan Final Report \(November 2013\)](#), to identify opportunities to deliver better coordinated and integrated care.

LEARN MORE

- [Final Report of the Scarborough/West Durham Panel](#)
- [Backgrounder: Special Advisor Appointed To Better Integrate Care For The Scarborough-West Durham Region](#)
- [Expert Panel to Develop Health Care Plan for Scarborough and West Durham Region](#)
- [Backgrounder: Scarborough and West Durham Health Care Services Panel](#)

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