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BETTER ACCESS TO BETTER CARE FOR BRAMPTON RESIDENTS *McGuinty Government Supporting Redevelopment At William Osler Health Centre*

BRAMPTON – The McGuinty government today announced that it is improving health care services for the people of Brampton by giving the go ahead to redevelop the Lynch Street site at the William Osler Health Centre, Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman announced today.

“Our government is ensuring that people in all areas of the province have access to the health care they need, and that includes the highest quality local hospitals,” said Smitherman. “I’m pleased to announce that Brampton will soon have even better hospital facilities to serve the needs of area residents.”

This commitment will allow the hospital to move ahead with redevelopment of the former Peel Memorial Hospital site on Lynch Street. This means that patients will have access to a state-of-the-art facility to accommodate ambulatory care. Construction is slated to begin in 2009/2010.

"Our community is growing at an exponential rate and so too are our health care needs," said William Osler Health Centre's Board Chair, Gordon Laschinger. "Today's announcement is great news for area residents and for the physicians, staff and volunteers who provide care at William Osler Health Centre."

William Osler Health Centre's capital project is one of several hospital projects approved under ReNew Ontario, the government's five-year, \$30-billion infrastructure investment plan, which commits \$5 billion to health care infrastructure.

ReNew Ontario is a comprehensive plan to modernize and replace many of the province's hospitals, schools and post-secondary institutions. It will also support the provincial economy through investments in transportation, transit and research and by accommodating growth.

“This hospital capital project is part of our government's plan to help ensure Ontarians have the high quality services they need and deserve,” said David Caplan, the Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal. “For the first time, this province has a long-term plan for building and developing our hospitals that will bring much needed stability and certainty to hospitals and better health care for Ontarians.”

“The ReNew Ontario plan will make it possible for many hospitals to undertake much-needed capital improvements to facilities that, across Ontario, average 43 years old,” said Hilary Short, President and CEO of the Ontario Hospital Association. “We welcome today’s important investment in the William Osler Health Centre’s Lynch Street site, and we look forward to further investments like these in the months and years ahead.”

“Our government has a vision of a health care system that will help keep Ontarians healthier, get them good care when they are sick, and that will be there for their children and grandchildren,” said Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman. “Upgrading and modernizing our hospitals is critical to making that vision a reality.”

This initiative is part of the McGuinty government’s plan to build a health care system that delivers on three priorities—keeping Ontarians healthy, reducing wait times and providing better access to doctors and nurses.

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