

INCREASED FUNDING FOR ONTARIO'S HOSPITALS

April 13, 2008

Ontario is increasing funding for hospitals by 4.9 per cent for the 2008-09 fiscal year. This investment includes increases in base funding to all hospitals as well as \$295 million in targeted funding in four key areas.

HOSPITAL GROWTH FUNDING

Growth funding is targeted for Ontario's fastest growing communities to help address increasing demand for hospital services. The 2008 Ontario Budget announced a \$120 million investment over the next three years to help hospitals in areas experiencing high population and service usage growth meet anticipated demand. This amount includes \$30 million in 2008-09. Local Health Integration Networks will be determining the appropriate distribution and timing of this funding for their hospitals based on their respective local circumstances.

NEW OR EXPANDED SERVICES FUNDING

This is the additional operating funding provided for service expansions following the completion of a ministry approved capital project.

The additional services being funded include:

- Acute Medical / Surgical Inpatient Beds
- Acute Mental Health Inpatient Beds
- Intensive Care – Adult and Neonatal Beds
- Complex Continuing Care (CCC) Beds
- Rehabilitation Beds
- Emergency Visits
- Ambulatory Care Visits – Day / Night and Clinic

WAIT TIME STRATEGY FUNDING

Ontario's Wait Time Strategy (WTS) is focused on reducing the waiting times for five select services including cancer surgery, cardiac procedures, cataract surgery, MRI/CT scans and hip and knee replacements. The funding included within this allocation is for hospitals to increase the number of surgical and diagnostic procedures performed as part of this strategy.

SMALL HOSPITAL FUNDING

This funding is distributed to small hospitals in fiscal 2008-09 to ensure that service gaps are covered so that core services, such as emergency departments, are sustained.