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Ontario Government Investing in Home and Community Care Support Services

Province Funds Two Additional Hospice Beds at Oak Ridges Hospice

NEWS

The hospice sector is crucial to Ontario's strategy to build a stronger, more resilient health system centered around the needs of patients, as it provides people and caregivers with additional options for end-of-life care outside of hospitals. To support this goal, the Ministry of Health has provided Home and Community Care Support Services (HCCSS) and Ontario Health with funding totalling up to \$1M to support the residential hospice bed expansion. Hospice palliative care plays a vital role in Ontario's health care system, providing people with additional options for high-quality end-of-life care outside of hospitals.

As a part of this investment, Todd McCarthy, MPP Durham and Lorne Coe, MPP Whitby are pleased to announce that the Ministry of Health has approved funding for Oak Ridges Hospice in Port Perry to add an additional two beds to their existing eight care suites. This brings them to the maximum of ten beds, allowing them to serve more people in need of their services. These beds have received approval through to the 25/26 fiscal year.

"Our government is ensuring patients can connect to more appropriate care in their community," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "By expanding the number of beds at Oak Ridges Hospice, more patients will be able to remain closer to home, near their family and friends."

"This announcement is all about community, it's about love and compassion, and it's about the Oak Ridges Hospice, and the Government of Ontario is 100% behind getting these two extra beds funded for the next three years" said Todd McCarthy, MPP for Durham. "It is very important for our loved ones and our community to help take the pressure off hospitals and the Oak Ridges Hospice provides love and dignity in the final days of our loved one's lives. This is great news for our community."

"Our government is committed to ensuring patients receive the care, dignity and respect they expect, and deserve." said Whitby MPP Lorne Coe and Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier. "This Hospice will provide people in the Region of Durham with palliative care in a comfortable home-like space, where they can be close to loved ones."

Christine Vos, Executive Director for the Oak Ridges Hospice in Scugog, welcomed the news of this announcement as urgent relief and reassurance to the families in Port Perry who have been patiently waiting for the care and services the Oak Ridges Hospice provides.

"Being able to open the last 2 beds at the Morgan and Sidhu house will allow Oak Ridges Hospice to provide end of life care to even more families. As currently we are the only residential hospice serving the Durham Region, these additional beds offer the opportunity to reduce the current pressures within the hospital system, increase community support for caregivers and create awareness surrounding hospice palliative care. This funding could not have come at a better time as it provides greater access to high quality end of life care within the Durham Region."

Quick Facts

- Ontario is working to expand palliative care services in local communities and adding 23 new hospice beds to the 500 beds already available so that Ontarians are provided comfort and dignity near their communities and loved ones at the end of their lives.
- Hospices provide compassionate end-of-life services to people and families in their communities. Services can include 24/7 professional nursing and personal support services, caregiver supports, and pain and symptom management.
- With the passage of the *Compassionate Care Act, 2020*, Ontario is continuing to improve equitable access to high-quality, palliative care for individuals, families and caregivers in all regions of Ontario. In December 2021, Ontario released the Provincial Framework for Palliative Care as a tool to help provide better, connected care across the province, and guide future work to ensure that all Ontarians receive the respect, dignity and care they deserve at every stage of life and across the continuum of care.
- Between 2018 and 2021 the Province increased its dedicated investments in hospice expansion and palliative care quality improvement initiatives from \$67 million in 2018 to over \$74 million in 2021.

Additional Resources

[Ontario Connecting More People to Care at Home](#)

[Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#)
[A Plan to Stay Open](#)

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