

## Improving Patient Care in Waterloo Wellington's Rural Hospitals

*New Ontario Government Helping Rural Residents Get Quality Care*

April 22, 2013

### NEWS

Ontario is enhancing health care for residents in the Waterloo Wellington area through better co-ordination and integration of hospital and community care services.

In the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network, three projects will receive support through the province's Small and Rural Hospital Transformation Fund. Initiatives include standardizing care co-ordination and implementing integrated health delivery while optimizing the use of technology.

These projects will help provide more co-ordinated, higher quality care and improve the transition for patients between hospital and community care.

A better, more co-ordinated health care system that provides the right care, at the right time, in the right place is part of Ontario's [Action Plan for Health Care](#) and supports the new Ontario government's efforts to build a healthy province and a fair society for all.

### QUOTES

"Small and rural hospitals in southwestern Ontario are using this new support to close gaps in care and make it easier for patients to access follow-up treatments. We want patients across the province, regardless of where they live, to be able to access the care they need, when and where they need it."

— Deb Mathews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

"Rural communities have unique health care needs, and sometimes face greater challenges with accessing services and follow-up treatments. This is why we are making important investments that will improve the quality of health care and lower barriers to access for patients in Waterloo Wellington."

— Jeff Leal, Minister of Rural Affairs

"Sharing with our health care providers ensures our residents receive the highest quality care close to home and in a more efficient manner."

— Jerome Quenneville, President and CEO, North Wellington Health Care

"Today's announcement is just part of the exciting bigger picture that is taking place to transform health care services for the residents of Wellington. We are building foundations both literally and figuratively that will improve care."

— Joan Fisk, Board Chair, Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network

## QUICK FACTS

- The province is providing \$20 million to help small and rural hospitals across the province transform health care delivery to provide better integrated care.
- Sixty-four small and rural hospitals in Ontario were eligible to apply through their Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) for one-time funding for projects that improve patient care.
- LHINs allocated the funding to hospitals, allowing funding decisions to be local, flexible and based on making the highest impact on patient care.

## LEARN MORE

- Find out more about Ontario's [Action Plan for Health Care](#)

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