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BETTER ACCESS TO BETTER CARE FOR TORONTO RESIDENTS

McGuinty Government Supporting Redevelopment At St. Michael's Hospital

TORONTO – The McGuinty government is improving healthcare services for the people of Toronto by supporting redevelopment at St. Michael's Hospital, 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,” Smitherman said. “I’m pleased to announce that Toronto will soon have even better hospital facilities to serve the needs of area residents.”

The government is investing \$4.7 million to help St. Michael's Hospital redevelop the trauma and neurosurgery intensive care unit and consolidate outpatient dialysis to one site. This will result in modern, expanded space for trauma and neurosurgery patients, and safety for dialysis patients will be improved through the relocation and modernization of the unit.

"This generous support from the McGuinty government accelerates our plan to improve our services, so that residents of Ontario will have access to state of the art facilities and the best care in the province," said Jeff Lozon, President and CEO, St. Michael's Hospital.

The project has been 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.

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

“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 Smitherman. “Upgrading and modernizing our health care facilities is critical to making that vision a reality.”

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