



**Mario G. Racco, M.P.P.**

Thornhill

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**McGUINTY GOVERNMENT INVESTING MORE MONEY FOR BETTER  
HOSPITAL CARE IN YORK REGION**

*Additional Funding Of \$29,358,699 Million Will Help Hospitals in York Region  
Provide Better Care for York Region Patients*

**YORK REGION** – After four years in office, the McGuinty government has increased funding for Ontario’s hospitals by \$3.1 billion. Residents of York Region will benefit from improved hospital care thanks to an increase of \$29,358,699 in funding this fiscal year for Hospitals in York Region, Thornhill MPP Mario G. Racco announced today on behalf of Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman.

“We’re making sure Ontarians continue to receive the best health care possible by supporting the services they receive in our hospitals,” said MPP Racco. “With this new funding, our government is ensuring that Hospitals in York Region have the resources they need to provide critical programs and services for the benefit of patients in York Region.

York Central Hospital, Southlake Regional Health Centre, and Markham-Stouffville Hospital will receive \$437,583,644 in total for operations in 2007-08.

“Our goal is to make Ontario hospitals stronger and sustainable over the long term so that they continue to meet the health care needs of Ontarians patients in the future,” said MPP Michael Chan, Markham. “Working collaboratively with our hospital partners, we have made significant progress in achieving this goal. We are proud that our hospitals are becoming more innovative and delivering high quality public health care.

Ontario hospitals will receive \$14.1 billion in operating funding this fiscal year, an increase of over \$495 million –or 3.7 per cent – from the previous year.

“The additional investment in our hospitals is good news for the residents of the Central LHIN,” said Ken Morrison, chair of the Central LHIN Board of Directors. “We appreciate the government’s continuing commitment to improving the quality of hospital care, and the solid foundation this provides for the implementation of the priorities in our Integrated Health Service Plan.”



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This is just one more example of how, working together, Ontarians have achieved results in quality hospital care for families. Other initiatives include:

- Reducing wait times for five key health care services (hip and knee joint replacement, cataract surgeries, cancer surgeries, cardiac procedures and MRI and CT exams) with an investment of more than \$895 million over four years for approximately 1,270,000 additional procedures in these areas.
- Investing \$5 billion in modernizing and expanding health care facilities by 2010 to meet the needs of the province's growing and aging population.
- Investing \$143 million in an Emergency Department Action Plan, which contains system-wide solutions to ensure emergency rooms stay open and increase capacity in the health care system to meet the needs of Ontario patients.
- Investing in community-based primary health care with the creation of 49 new and satellite Community Health Centres (CHCs), and 150 Family Health Teams to reduce the pressure on hospital emergency rooms.

Today's initiative is part of the McGuinty government's plan for innovation in public health, building a system that delivers on three priorities - keeping Ontarians healthy, reducing wait times and providing better access to doctors and nurses.

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