

**Reza Moridi, M.P.P.**

Richmond Hill

May 22, 2009

**REDUCING ER WAIT TIMES IN RICHMOND HILL**  
**McGuinty Government Invests In Strategy To Improve ER Efficiency**

Residents of Richmond Hill will benefit from approximately \$1.5 million in funding to help York Central Hospital reduce emergency room (ER) wait times.

For the second year in a row, the Ontario government is funding a comprehensive ER strategy which will include:

- ♣ \$1.485 million to York Central Hospital: to help its ER performance.
- ♣ \$416,667 to York Region: for ambulance offload nurses – York Central Hospital's ER will benefit from some of this funding
- ♣ One new physician assistant to York Central Hospital

These initiatives are aimed at improving the overall performance of hospital ERs across the province.

**QUOTES**

"The McGuinty government is working with the province's hospitals to ensure our ERs are running as efficiently as possible," said Reza Moridi, MPP Richmond Hill. "Our ER strategy, along with our improvements to community services for seniors, will help to reduce the time people spend in ERs."

"We welcome this funding by the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care," says Jo-Anne Marr, Acting President and CEO of York Central Hospital. "We appreciate the recognition by the Ministry that York Central Hospital has enormous pressure on our facility and team members to serve such a quickly growing and expanding community."

"As one of the busiest Emergency Departments in the GTA, we saw more than 69,000 patients in the last year which is an almost ten percent increase in visits over the previous year," said Dr. Indy Ghosh, Chief and Clinical Director of the hospital's Emergency Medicine program. "Already this year, we are tracking to care for 75,000 patients in over the upcoming year. This funding will help us to streamline and implement processes to help with pressures of patient demand. Our goal remains to provide excellent patient care while improving access for our community," added Dr. Gosh.

"An improvement in ER wait times will relieve pressures throughout the health care system and allow health service providers to deliver effective care in an efficient manner. This initiative requires strong leadership from the government, hospitals and LHIN's to deliver the best care for the patients in the Central LHIN," said Kim Baker, Acting CEO, Central LHIN.



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#### QUICK FACTS

- ♣ There are 163 emergency rooms in the province, with 2.8 million people making 5.25 million visits to these ERs each year.
- ♣ In February, the government began publicly reporting the time people spend in ERs while setting targets of four hours for patients with minor or uncomplicated conditions and eight hours for patients with complex conditions.

#### LEARN MORE

Read about [alternatives to a hospital ER.](#)

Find out more about the [reporting of the time spent in ERs.](#)

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