



Reza Moridi, M.P.P.

Richmond Hill

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 30, 2008

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE IS KEY TO LOWERING WAIT TIMES

McGuinty Government Investing \$109 Million in Alternatives To Hospital Care

Responding to challenges patients are facing in Richmond Hill emergency rooms, the Ontario government is taking numerous coordinated steps to reduce ER wait times at York Central Hospital and to improve patient satisfaction.

York Central Hospital will be receiving over \$1,322,000 from the *Performance Fund* which targets ERs facing the most immediate challenges

Providing more people with alternatives to hospital care is the key to reducing emergency room wait times. A major factor causing long ER wait times is the high number of alternate level of care (ALC) patients occupying acute care hospital beds making it difficult to admit patients from the ER to hospital. ALC patients are unable to be discharged because they are waiting to be discharged to the right care. Today's announcement is making much more of that care available to residents of Richmond Hill.

The plan to reduce ER wait times includes avoiding unnecessary admissions, improving flow within the ER and increasing community supports.

Today's \$109 Million announcement includes:

- \$39.5 Million for a *Performance Fund* targeting Ontario's 23 emergency rooms facing the most challenges, IT enhancements and coaching teams to enhance hospital efficiency
- \$38.5 million for increased home care services and enhanced integration between hospitals and Community Care Access Centres
- \$22 million in new priority funding for Ontario's 14 Local Health Integration Networks to invest in local solutions to further address ALC pressures
- \$4.5 million for dedicated nurses to care for patients who arrive at ERs by ambulance to ease ambulance offload delays
- \$4.5 million for new nurse-led outreach teams to provide more care to patients in long-term care homes to avoid transfer to the ER

In April, the McGuinty government unveiled its top two overarching health priorities for the next several years: reducing emergency room wait times and family health care for all. Today's announcement builds momentum on ER wait times reductions.

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“Reducing ER wait times will improve patient satisfaction and enhance confidence in our health care system,” said Reza Moridi, MPP Richmond Hill. “We’re helping York Central Hospital take steps to reduce wait times in emergency rooms and also providing people with alternatives to hospital care wherever appropriate.”

QUICK FACTS

- There are 163 emergency rooms in the province, with 2.8 million people making more than five million visits to these ERs each year.
- 18.6 per cent of beds in Ontario hospitals are occupied by patients who require appropriate care outside of hospital.

LEARN MORE

Find out more about [seniors care](#) at home and in the community.

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