



REZA MORIDI, MPP
Richmond Hill



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reducing MRI Wait Times in York Region *McGuinty Government Improving Access to Diagnostic Scans*

January 24, 2011

Three hospitals in the York Region are boosting operating hours for MRI scans, which will reduce wait times for diagnostic scans.

The province is providing a one-time investment that will result in 3,050 additional scans for MRI patients in three hospitals. The following hospitals will provide additional MRI scans:

- Markham Stouffville Hospital
- Southlake Regional Health Centre
- York Central Hospital

The additional scans and reduced wait times will make it easier for people who need an MRI scan to get tested and treated more quickly. This will provide peace of mind knowing the care they need is close to home.

Today's announcement is part of the government's Open Ontario Plan to provide more access to health care services while improving quality and accountability for patients.

QUOTES

"Ontario's Wait-time Strategy is working. Today's announcement of a one-time investment of \$528,600 will have a quantitative affect on the number of MRI scans and on the wait-times for individual patients. It is significant that the Open Ontario Plan has made a priority of this type of healthcare investment."

- Reza Moridi, MPP Richmond Hill

"For Markham residents, more good health care news is always welcome. As Markham Stouffville Hospital undergoes a massive redevelopment, this new investment will increase capacity for a valuable diagnostic tool and help patients receive faster treatment for improved recovery."

- Michael Chan, MPP Markham-Unionville

"I am pleased to be able to announce that because of this funding more people in our community will get MRI scans faster and can start receiving the treatment they need sooner."

- Dr. Helena Jaczek, MPP Oak Ridges-Markham



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“Since 2004, our Province has created an unprecedented improvement on wait times. Funding for more scans means quicker diagnoses, earlier treatment, and ultimately better, healthier, outcomes for patients and their families. It also helps our system avoid costlier interventions down the road. This investment has a very high value, both for patients and the health-care system in Ontario.”

- Greg Sorbara, MPP Vaughan

“We welcome the additional funding that will help York Central Hospital to provide our patients with more timely access to MRI services, close to home. This funding will enable our hospital to provide MRI scans for an additional 800 to 900 patients bringing this year’s forecasted total to over 7,300 patients.”

- **Altat Stationwala, President and CEO, York Central Hospital**

“The one-time funding for additional MRI scans at Markham Stouffville Hospital, Southlake Regional Health Centre and York Central Hospital means that residents in these communities will have faster access to the care they need, close to home. I expect we will see improvements in MRI wait times as a result of this priority funding.”

- **Kim Baker, Chief Executive Officer, Central LHIN**

QUICK FACTS

- The province is investing \$528,600 in York Region to boost hours for operating MRI scans.
- Ontario provided \$43.1 million for an additional 248,715 MRI scans in 2010/11
- Ontario has approved 30 new MRI machines since 2003
- There are currently 80 MRI machines operational in hospitals in Ontario

LEARN MORE

Find out more about Ontario Wait Times at
www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/waittimes/

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