



Glenn Thibeault, MPP

Sudbury

Ontario Investing over \$200,000 in Greater Sudbury to Improve Care in Emergency Rooms

Province Funding 300,000 Dedicated Nursing Hours to Reduce Emergency Wait Times

NEWS

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Ontario is providing more than \$216,000 to help patients receive quicker access to care in hospital emergency rooms in Sudbury. The province will provide funding to 20 municipalities across Ontario for 300,000 dedicated emergency room nursing hours at 49 hospitals this year.

Dedicated nurses will work exclusively on receiving low-acuity patients from ambulances, which will allow paramedics to respond to other 9-1-1 calls in the community rather than waiting in the emergency room. Patients arriving at hospitals by ambulance with life-threatening conditions continue to be given priority by hospital staff.

Municipalities who have received funding for these dedicated emergency room nurses have already reported seeing improvements in delays and emergency room wait times.

Investing in this initiative is part of the government's plan to build a better Ontario through its [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#), which provides patients with faster access to the right care, better home and community care, the information they need to live healthy, and a health care system that is sustainable for generations to come.

QUOTES

"I'm pleased that we can continue to invest in this initiative at hospitals across the province. Making these comprehensive investments ensures that the most effective practices are in place so we can continue to put the needs of our patients first. Thanks to the hard work of these dedicated emergency room nurses, we have seen a reduction in ambulance offload delays at hospitals."

— **Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care**

"This is much needed funding in our community. Our goal is always to be more efficient while delivering quality health care for Sudbury residents. By making this important investment, we will lower the wait times in the ER at Health Sciences North and improve patient care."

— **Glenn Thibeault, MPP for Sudbury**

"I want to thank the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for providing this crucial funding which will result in a more efficient Ambulance Service in Greater Sudbury, allowing our paramedics to be put out in our community attending to people in medical distress."

— **Brian Bigger, Mayor of Greater Sudbury**

"Having dedicated nurses meet people when they arrive at the hospital by ambulance can help reduce wait times in the Emergency Room. The north East LHIN will work with our partners to see whether these dedicated nurses would be a good fit in other hospitals in our as well."

— **Louise Paquette, CEO of the North East Local Health Integration Network**

QUICK FACTS

- The dedicated offload nurses initiative was created in 2008-2009 to reduce ambulance offload times by providing municipalities with funding for dedicated nurses to offload patients in hospital emergency rooms.
- Ontario's health care budget has increased from \$47.6 billion in 2012-13 to a total of \$51.8 billion in 2016-17.
- This year's \$51.8 billion investment in health care is a 2.1 per cent increase over last year – greater than the rate of inflation.

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