



NIAGARA HEALTH SYSTEM
SYSTÈME DE SANTÉ DE NIAGARA
TOGETHER IN EXCELLENCE - LEADERS IN HEALTHCARE

NEWS RELEASE

Date of Release: Friday, September 16, 2005

Province of Ontario approves new west St. Catharines health-care complex

NIAGARA, ON - The Province of Ontario has approved the go ahead for construction of the Niagara Health System's (NHS) new health-care complex to be built at First Street and Fourth Avenue in west St. Catharines. Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal David Caplan and Minister of Tourism and Seniors Jim Bradley made the announcement this morning to a gathering of local hospital and medical professionals and a group of community leaders.

"Words can't capture our appreciation and excitement. The well-being of the people of Niagara will dramatically improve with these new facilities which at long last will bring cancer, cardiac and long term mental health treatment much closer to home," said Mr. Paul D. Leon, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the NHS.

"We commend the McGuinty government for its commitment to healthcare and ensuring that our health professionals have the facilities and tools they need to care for the sick and frail. Our local provincial member Jim Bradley is to be commended for his unrelenting advocacy and leadership. Jim's tenacity and his passion to serve the best interests of the people of Niagara were a critical factor in securing the project's approval. We are truly grateful."

The health-care complex includes the development of a comprehensive cancer treatment centre, cardiac catheterization and tertiary mental health facility to serve residents from across Niagara and a new acute care hospital for the residents of St. Catharines, Thorold and immediate area.

"The benefits of this hospital project will be felt across Niagara, and we are thrilled with the provincial government's support for our plan to improve and expand hospital services right here in our region," said Mrs. Debbie Sevenpifer, President and CEO of the NHS. "Today's announcement means that we will be in a very good position to open for services to patients by early 2010."

Mrs. Sevenpifer explained that moving the hospital complex from idea to reality is really the result of a huge team effort. "There have literally been hundreds of physicians and

staff members working hand-in-hand on the work that has been done to date. We have a number of milestones to achieve through the next nine to ten months at which time we hope to be at the point where we put a shovel in the ground."

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