



Bill Mauro, M.P.P.

Thunder Bay-Atikokan

Ontario Providing \$2.5 Million to Lake of the Woods District Hospital *Mauro Announces Grant for Capital Planning*

June 8, 2017

News

Ontario is providing a grant of \$2.5 million to help Lake of the Woods District Hospital plan to identify key priorities for improving programs and services, ensuring that patients in the City of Kenora and surrounding region, including the First Nations communities served by the hospital, continue to have access to high-quality health care.

This grant will support the Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) to plan for addressing critical building-related infrastructure and program issues. The Building a Future Committee of the LWDH Board will be working together with regional health care partners and the North West LHIN to move forward with the capital planning process.

Investing in hospital construction is part of Ontario's Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ms/ecfa/healthy_change/>, which is increasing access to the right care, reducing wait times and improving the patient experience — protecting health care for today and the future.

QUOTES

“Our hospitals are critical to the health and well being of our communities and I’m pleased that our government is committed to planning to ensure hospital facilities in the region remain current and sustainable. This, along with our recently announced increase to hospital operating funding and the new OHIP+ Children and Youth Pharmacare Program greatly contributes to the quality of life in Northwestern Ontario.”

— **Bill Mauro, MPP Thunder Bay-Atikokan**

“After many years of hard work and advocacy, we are excited to be moving forward with the capital planning process. The Lake of the Woods District Hospital staff and board are grateful for the support we have received from the Ontario government on this project and look forward to working with our community partners towards the development of a new facility.”

— **Mark Balcaen, President & CEO, Lake of the Woods District Hospital**

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QUICK FACTS

- Each of Ontario's 145 public hospitals will receive a minimum 2 per cent increase to its funding in 2017–18.
- Hospital operating funding in Ontario has increased more than 58 per cent, from \$11.3 billion in 2003-04 to \$18 billion in 2017-18.
- Ontario's health care budget will total \$53.8 billion in 2017–18 — a 3.8 per cent increase from the previous year.
- As part of the 2017 Budget, Ontario is proposing to spend an additional \$9 billion to support the construction of new hospital projects across the province. This would bring Ontario's total planned investment in hospital infrastructure to more than \$20 billion over the next 10 years.

FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES ONLY

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