

Ontario Funding Hospice Beds in Elgin Region

NEWS

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ST. THOMAS — Ontarians nearing the end of their lives deserve the choice to receive end-of-life care at home or in the community in a comfortable setting. This is often not the case, with many patients still receiving palliative care in hospitals. That's why Ontario is committed to providing more appropriate and compassionate palliative care services for patients and families in the Elgin region.

Today, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, was joined by Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and MPP for Elgin—Middlesex—London, to announce that St. Joseph's Health Care Society is receiving \$1.6 million in funding to open a new, eight-bed residential hospice. Once open, the province will provide Elgin Residential Hospice with an additional \$840,000 annually in operational funding to support the provision of care.

"Our government is improving access to hospice beds and community-based services, so people and their families can receive end-of-life support in a comfortable setting," said Elliott. "We are ensuring that patients receive the proper assistance, dignity and respect they expect and deserve. At the same time, by providing patients with more options for palliative care, we will help end hallway health care in St. Thomas by making more beds available for those who need hospital care."

"I am thrilled that St. Thomas and Elgin County will finally benefit from the care and resources that a hospice will provide," said Yurek. "This new facility will be equipped to serve both rural and urban communities in the region and will play a unique role within our local healthcare system. This is a need that has been evident for many years, and I look forward to seeing all the ways that it will meaningfully impact people's lives."

Hospices provide patients with palliative care, which focuses on relieving suffering and providing psychological, spiritual and bereavement support in a comfortable space, where they can be close to loved ones. Elgin Residential Hospice will provide nursing, personal support, and other services to end-of-life patients in a home-like setting.

Quick Facts:

- Ontario is providing one-time capital funding of \$1.6 million to St. Joseph's Healthcare Society to build the Elgin Residential Hospice.
- This is in addition to the government's investment of \$33.6 million to build 193 planned residential hospice beds across the province.
- Overall, when these 201 total beds open, the government will provide \$21.6 million each year in operational funding for nursing, personal support, and other services delivered to patients.

Additional Resources:

[Ontario's Government for the People Supporting Compassionate End-Of-Life Care](#)

For public inquiries call ServiceOntario, INFOline at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only)

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