

## Government invests in Headwaters hospital

The Province is helping Headwaters Health Care Centre make upgrades to improve health services and increase access to care for area residents.

The Priority Ambulatory Care Program project will expand and renovate the ambulatory care and surgical services at Headwaters. The expansion and renovation will support reductions in wait times, help to accommodate ambulatory care growth and work to integrate local health systems within the Central West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

In addition, the expansion will accommodate the chemotherapy and minor procedure suites, as well as ambulatory exam and treatment space, and renovations will focus on the surgical suite to ensure it meets current planning standards.

Ensuring access to the right care, at the right time and in the right place supports Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care and is part of the government's efforts to build a strong economy and a fair society for the benefit of all.

"Small and rural hospitals in Ontario are using this new support to improve their facilities and make it easier for patients across the province, regardless of where they live, to be able to access the care they need, when and where they need it," commented Health and Long-Term Care Minister Deb Matthews.

"To meet the growing demand in our community for outpatient care at Headwaters Health Care Centre, we need to redevelop some of our existing space and create some new space for surgery and specialist clinics, like orthopaedics and oncology," Headwaters President and CEO Liz Ruegg remarked. "I am thrilled and excited to be able to start to make the much needed improvements for our patients, staff, physicians and volunteers, thanks to the support from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. In conjunction with our generous community and their ongoing support, Headwaters will be able to continue to deliver high quality, efficient and safe care close to home."

"The Central West LHIN welcomes the Ministry's commitment to fund the redevelopment of the Ambulatory Care Program at Headwaters Health Care Centre, LHIN," Board Chair Maria Britto added. "This is a very sound investment to support the residents in our rural communities and aligns perfectly with Ontario's Action Plan to improve health care services locally, which is also one of the priorities of the Central West LHIN."