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Building and growing for a better tomorrow

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Hospital infrastructure developments will improve patient care in Ottawa, Ajax-Pickering and North Bay



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Health System in Ajax-Pickering are the latest announcements of hospital projects, bringing the total number of announced new hospital projects to 63. The projects are part of a health care capital construction program that will see \$5 billion invested in health infrastructure for over 100 major projects that will be started or completed in the next few years. [\[For the full story, click here.\]](#)

Minister Caplan meets his federal counterpart

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Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal David Caplan went to Ottawa on March 6 for his first meeting with the new federal minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, the Honourable Lawrence Cannon. "Today's meeting bodes well for the future of infrastructure in Ontario," Minister Caplan remarked after the hour-long session. "Much of the renewal of Ontario's aging infrastructure depends on partnerships between the various levels of government. I am hopeful that the momentum we achieved with the previous federal government will continue under the Conservatives." [[For the full story, click here.](#)]

Rural plan update



Just over a year after launching its rural plan — called Strong Rural Communities — the government has released an update that includes important public infrastructure renewal projects. The projects, which range from providing safe drinking water in North Bay, to improving health care facilities in Brantford, and replacing a bridge in St.

Catharines, are part of an interconnected strategy to address a range of issues facing rural Ontario and make a real difference in the lives of people in rural areas. Rural communities are key to the vitality of the province, and the agriculture, forestry, mining and manufacturing sectors are key to the economy. [[For the full story, click here.](#)]

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invested in health infrastructure for over 100 major projects that will be started or completed in the next few years.

Ajax-Pickering

The new Ajax-Pickering project will accelerate the redevelopment of the Rouge Valley Health System's main site.

New construction and renovation will modernize and expand the emergency room, diagnostic imaging department, ambulatory care unit, laboratory, and mental health services at the Ajax-Pickering site.

This will enable the facility to accommodate increased demand from the expanding population in the region, and achieve more effective patient care by amalgamating mental health services from

neighbouring Centenary Hospital. Construction is expected to begin in 2007-08.

Ottawa

The Ottawa Hospital Regional Cancer Centre expansion will provide three or more radiation machines and enlarged associated cancer services. When completed, at least 11 radiation devices will be available to meet increased patient needs in the Champlain region.

Expected to begin in 2007-08, construction and renovations at both the Ottawa Hospital and Queensway Carleton Hospital will create an integrated cancer program for the region.

The Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre has one of the most efficient radiation programs in Ontario, but it still has one of the longest waiting lists in the province. Without the new radiation machines, the Cancer Centre would be forced to start referring patients to other — sometimes distant — treatment centres by 2008.

The renovations will expand and replace the facilities at the Civic Campus of the Ottawa Hospital. The three treatment units at the site are operating beyond their expected life span and cannot accommodate new equipment, given current radiation shielding and machine operating requirements.

Premier McGuinty stressed the importance these facilities will have in people's lives. As the son of a nurse, he knows the human face of health care.

"People were busy learning, growing and raising families when, one day, everything changed. When the diagnosis came. When they found out they had cancer. People who have been through that painful experience will tell you there are few things more frightening than hearing a doctor use that word. So, with today's investment, we want to make sure that people living with cancer have access to the very best health care we can deliver."

North Bay

In North Bay, a final call for tenders to bid on a proposal to build, finance and maintain the North Bay Regional Health Centre was released on March 3. A request for proposals was issued to three consortia that had been previously qualified as bidders. They are:

Hospital Infrastructure Partners, composed of Carillion Canada Inc., Ellis Don Corporation, CIT Financial, and LPF Realty (owned 100 per cent by Labourers' Pension Fund of Central and Eastern Ontario);

Plenary Health, composed of the Plenary Group, Deutsche Bank AG, PCL Constructors Canada, Johnson Controls; and

SNC Lavalin, composed of SNC-Lavalin Engineers and Constructors Inc., SNC-Lavalin Investments, SNC-Lavalin Profac.

The project will be managed by Infrastructure Ontario, the crown agency created to oversee the government's Alternative Financing and Procurement (AFP) program.

Ontario's investment in the hospital is an important part of the province's plan to modernize hospitals, reduce wait times and upgrade medical facilities and equipment in the North Bay area and right across the province.

The new North Bay Regional Health Centre, like all hospitals in Ontario, will be publicly owned, publicly controlled and publicly accountable.

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“Today’s meeting bodes well for the future of infrastructure in Ontario,” Minister Caplan remarked after the hour-long session. “Much of the renewal of Ontario’s aging infrastructure depends on partnerships between the various levels of government. I am hopeful that the momentum we achieved with the previous federal government will continue under the

Conservatives.”

During the cordial and positive meeting both ministers agreed to pursue short and long term goals and establish future priorities. A shared commitment to the sustainability of infrastructure underscored the wide-ranging conversation.

One of the topics discussed was public transit – crucial to Ontario’s growth, particularly in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. With his background as president of the Société de transport de l’Outaouais and of the Association du transport urbain du Québec, Minister Cannon knows the importance of investments in transit.

Ontario Deputy Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal Carol Layton also participated in the meeting, along with her federal counterparts Louis Ranger, Deputy Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities and André Juneau, Deputy Head, Infrastructure and Communities.

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The projects, which range from providing safe drinking water in North Bay, to improving health care facilities in Brantford, and replacing a bridge in St. Catharines, are part of an interconnected strategy to address a range of issues facing rural Ontario and make a real difference in the lives of people in rural areas.

Rural communities are key to the vitality of the

province, and the agriculture, forestry, mining and manufacturing sectors are key to the economy.

Here are some examples of PIR initiatives supporting Strong Rural Communities:

- Revenues from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation – an agency of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal – provided an estimated \$312 million to the horseracing industry in rural communities across Ontario.
- An estimated \$41 million more from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation revenues supported local infrastructure and services in rural Ontario municipalities.
- Approximately \$125 million will be invested by

Clean Water in North Bay through the Canada Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF)

the province in 120 rural communities to enhance and renew Ontario's public infrastructure, under the Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. Through COMRIF, 35 water and wastewater projects were approved in 30 municipalities, 177 road and bridge projects were approved in 87 municipalities and three solid waste projects in three municipalities.

Affordable infrastructure financing was provided to 36 municipalities through the second round of the Infrastructure Renewal Loan Program, available through the Ontario Strategic Infrastructure Financing Authority.

Hitting the infrastructure jackpot in Gananoque

Revenues from the Thousand Islands Charity Casino, owned and operated by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation, are helping the Town of Gananoque renew its infrastructure to improve the lives of its citizens. Among the many projects completed with charity casino revenues are a police and fire station, a public works garage and a new roof for the local arena. The King Street Bridge has been repaired with combined funding from charity casino revenues and the Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund.

With support from the Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, the City of North Bay will construct a new membrane filtration water treatment plant to be connected to the city's existing water system. The new plant will replace current treatment facilities with modern, energy-efficient equipment, as well as state-of-the art controls.

The governments of Canada and Ontario will each invest up to \$14,988,333. The City of North Bay will contribute the balance of the total eligible project cost of up to \$44,965,000.

Ontario Strategic Infrastructure Financing Authority (OSIFA) paves the way for infrastructure in Lanark Highlands

More than three quarters of the 512 kilometres of roads in the Township of Lanark Highlands are surfaced with gravel. Financing from the Ontario Strategic Infrastructure Financing Authority helped pave many of these roads. The Township borrowed \$1.94 million, at a rate about one per cent lower than the bank's best rate. Based on the difference in the cost of maintaining paved and gravel roads, the municipality estimates that the paved roads will pay for themselves in 10 years.

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All proceeds from the event will benefit the Foundation. Last year, a similar event at River Rock Casino in British Columbia raised over \$2.8 million.

Seventy children in Ontario had an organ transplant last year. When he announced the gala benefit, Public Infrastructure Renewal Minister David Caplan spoke of the "fears and frustration an ordeal like that brings" to the children and their families.

"For 20 years, David Foster, through his charitable activities, has helped mitigate that burden for hundreds of families," Minister Caplan said.

Foster inspired the audience at the announcement with the moving story of why he started his foundation. When Foster was just starting out in Los Angeles, his mother phoned to ask him to visit a little girl from his hometown of Victoria who was in hospital in Los Angeles for a transplant. He went

even though he did not know her, and was very touched by the visit.

Asked what she would want if she could have anything she wished for, she said a visit from her older sister. Foster paid for the sister's flight, and the joy on the little girl's face turned his visit into a life-long mission.

The Foster Foundation now helps with similar costs for the families of stricken children. Sometimes it is the need to look after mortgage or rent payments for the months the family will be away, or to cover the cost of daycare for siblings left behind while parents are with their sick child.

"The McGuinty government is pleased to support the important work of the David Foster Foundation through Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation," said Minister Caplan.

Since the OLGC was established in 1975, it has returned more than \$23 billion to the people of Ontario for investments in health care, physical fitness, sport, recreation and cultural activities, as well as contributions to charitable and not-for-profit organizations.

"This gala is a step towards a better quality of life for our children," Minister Caplan continued. "Thanks again to David Foster for sharing his talents, and the OLGC for their continued good work. It is a good cause. I hope to see all of you there."

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The LCBO also won two silver awards: one for its 2004 *Holiday Wrapped Up* campaign that helped drive a 40 per cent increase in sales in gift cards, and another in the New Media: e-mail category for a joint campaign it developed for

the AIR MILES Rewards program.

The LCBO is an agency of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal.

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