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Media Release

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Ontario's Government Investing in Urgent Hospital Upgrades and Repairs in Durham Region

AJAX, ON. Today, Rod Phillips, Peter Bethlenfalvy and Lorne Coe joined Regional Chair John Henry to announce that Ontario's Government for the People is investing close to \$2 Million in upgrades to improve services for patients at Lakeridge Health's Ajax Pickering site.

"The health and safety of patients and families here in Ajax and across Ontario is a priority for our government," said Rod Phillips, Member of Provincial Parliament for Ajax. "We must make the necessary investments in our hospitals, to ensure our providers have the facilities they need to continue to provide excellent quality care to patients."

Ontario's Government for the People is prioritizing the health and safety of patients by providing 128 hospitals across the province with funding through the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund to upgrade, repair and maintain their facilities. This includes an investment of \$1,980,458 in the Ajax Pickering Hospital.

"Our government continues to invest in essential health care projects for the people of Durham Region," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Member of Provincial Parliament for Pickering-Uxbridge. "We're working to ensure that our province has high-quality medical facilities and services that our community can depend on now, and for years to come."

The government is moving forward quickly to address challenges facing the health care system as it develops a long-term transformational health care strategy to end hallway health care. As this important work continues, this funding will allow hospitals to address urgent issues, including upgrades or replacements of roofs, windows, heating and air conditioning systems, fire alarms and back-up generators.

"I am delighted that Lakeridge Health Ajax will be receiving almost \$2 Million from the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund," said Lorne Coe, Member of Provincial Parliament for Whitby. "Supporting enhancements to health codes and maintaining a safe work environment are both critical components to first class health care and it is yet another indicator that the Government continues to support better health care delivery in our Province."

"We are grateful for the Ontario Government's investment in Lakeridge Health to support modern hospitals and important health services for the people living and working in Ajax, Pickering and across Durham Region," said Sharon Cochran, Lakeridge Health Board Chair. "This important infrastructure funding will directly support the Lakeridge Health team to provide the highest quality of care and best patient experience."

This funding will help ensure hospitals across Ontario are able to make the needed upgrades, improvements and maintenance so patients and families have access to reliable, quality care they expect and deserve.

“This investment will allow Lakeridge Health to continue to improve the quality and functionality of their facilities as they work with the Central East LHIN and other health service providers to deliver care in an integrated and seamless system that is focused on patients,” said Louis O’Brien, Board Chair for the Central East LHIN. “This announcement ensures that Central East LHIN residents have access to acute care services in an environment that enables the staff to deliver the best care possible.”

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is investing \$175 million in repairs and upgrades to 128 hospitals this year through the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund.
- In 2018-2019, the government has invested an additional \$90 million for 1,100 beds and spaces in hospitals and the community, including the creation of over 640 new beds and spaces.

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