

# ROY VS FORD OVER WHITBY HOSPITAL

Whitby Mayor and CAO Respond to Premier's Comments About Durham Hospital.

The Town of Whitby announced next steps in the community advocacy campaign to bring a new hospital to Durham and care closer to home for residents.

Over the past eight weeks, almost 4,000 people have supported the campaign by signing a call-to-action letter or sharing a personal story about why a new hospital matters to them. As a next step, the Town will be papering municipal facilities with orange hearts, with each heart representing a resident who has supported the campaign. Residents can help keep the momentum going by visiting [whitby.ca/newhospital](http://whitby.ca/newhospital) to sign the call-to-action letter and have their heart added to the wall.

At the launch event for the next phase of the campaign, Mayor Roy was asked about the Premier's comments made earlier today about her efforts to bring a new hospital to Durham. Here is the Town's response:

The Premier is misdirecting the public with inaccurate allegations that are frankly disrespectful to the thousands of people who took the time to support our campaign and share personal stories. Standing up for the residents of Whitby is not being a bully. It's doing my job. The Province continues to say that a hospital for Durham is coming. What I'm asking is, when? I will continue to ask until we get an answer. I'm very concerned that today the Premier stated that the Province will select the site of the new Durham hospital. This is exactly why Whitby continues to advocate, to support the decision that was made by the independent expert panel more than two years ago. - Whitby Mayor Elizabeth Roy

What Premier Ford said this morning is entirely inaccurate and frankly disrespectful of the nearly 4,000 call-to-action letters and personal stories shared by residents from

across the region. Residents signed up to show their support for a new Durham hospital, not for a chance to win one of four prizes. The hospital community advocacy campaign launched by the Town was multi-purpose, aimed at both educating and engaging our community on a matter that residents said was of the utmost importance to them. The offer of prizeing to help drive participation is standard practice used by many municipalities. It's also important to note that emails are collected only as a means of validating submissions to prevent spam. Mayor and Council do not have access to emails provided. - Whitby Chief Administrative Officer Matt Gaskell

The Province of Ontario first recommended a new acute care hospital for Durham Region in 2015, recognizing the significant, rapid, and continued growth expected in the area.

The Current Status of the New Hospital for Durham

Two years ago, in January 2022 – following a transparent, two-stage site selection process – Lakeridge Health announced lands in Whitby as the preferred site for a proposed new hospital for Durham Region.

On March 8, Pickering Mayor Kevin Ashe and Whitby Mayor Elizabeth Roy sent a joint letter to Premier Ford about the need for a new hospital in Durham Region.

Despite the Premier publicly stating there will be a new Durham hospital in Whitby on a local radio station, there has still been no movement on the \$3 million Planning Grant and land commitment required to move this project forward.

On March 26, 2024, Ontario released a third consecutive provincial budget without the Planning Grant required for a new Durham hospital.

The Town of Whitby continues to advocate for provincial support in the process to bring a new hospital to the Whitby location to provide critical health care closer to home for all Durham residents.

Quotes From Provincial

Elected Officials About a New Durham Hospital

"There's going to be a Whitby hospital. Not tomorrow, but down the road, very shortly, we will be issuing the planning grants." – Ontario Premier Doug Ford on CKDO Radio, February 15, 2024

"Whitby in the Durham Region is absolutely on our radar in terms of where the next steps will happen" - Ontario Health Minister Sylvia Jones, Next-step funding to build new Whitby hospital absent from Ontario budget article in The Trillium, March 28, 2024

"We're working around the clock to advance that project for Whitby and for Durham. As the premier said, 'not tomorrow,' but stay tuned." - Ontario Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy, Ontario's finance minister responds to Whitby's disappointment on lack of hospital funding in budget, Durham Radio News, March 27, 2024

"As Premier Ford said recently, while we are not issuing any new planning grants right now, we will be building a new hospital in Whitby for the people of Durham Region." - Whitby MPP Lorne Coe statement on hospital, March 27, 2024

Many municipalities use prizeing to encourage engagement in important matters that impact them and their community.

Similar to other large Town engagement projects, the Town offered four prizes for education and engagement for this hospital advocacy campaign. With a focus on health care, prizes were selected to reflect health. This includes three in-kind prizes and one apple watch the Town paid for.

In-Kind: 12-Month Town of Whitby Health Club Family Membership: (at least one parent or one guardian, up to a maximum of two adults (18yrs+) and children (17yrs and younger) living in the same residence up to a maximum of 5 people) – The total value of this prize is \$1,100.75.

In-Kind: One of Two Get Active Prize Packs: includes

one (1) backpack valued at \$30, a swim towel valued at \$20, and two Town of Whitby Get Active Passes valued at \$10 each. The total value of this prize is \$70.

Paid: Apple Watch SE (GPS) 44mm Midnight Sports Band: total value of this prize is \$416.97.

The preferred site selected by Lakeridge Health for the new hospital is located south of Highway 407, west of Highway 412, east of Lake Ridge Road and north of Highway 7/Winchester Road located in Whitby.

The land is currently owned by the Ministry of Transportation.

The Whitby site was chosen because it is centrally located in the heart of Durham, less than 1 kilometre from three 400-series on ramps and three 400-series off ramps – critically important for what will be the only trauma centre between Toronto and Kingston.

The Site Selection Process Lakeridge Health began their site selection process for the new hospital in 2021.

This process was overseen by a fairness advisor and involved an independent, non-partisan expert panel with no connections to the region to ensure objectivity.

Lakeridge Health submitted a \$3M Planning Grant request to the Ministry of Health in Spring 2022 – this grant is a critical next step to move the project forward. Two provincial budgets have now been tabled without funding for this grant.

The Ministry of Transportation and the Town of Whitby have been working on the land disposition process since 2021. The allocation of this land aligns with the Ministry mandate letters.

Why It Matters

The current Lakeridge Health hospital system can't keep up with current demand and this will only increase as the community grows.

Durham is one of the fastest growing regions in Canada, with a population expected to be over one million people in less than 20 years. Almost

one third of the population is expected to be seniors aged 65 and older who will require more, and increasingly complex, care.

By 2041, Lakeridge Health will need 1,793 beds. That's more than double the current count.

The Province of Ontario requires every municipality to build a minimum number of homes to support population growth. The Town of Whitby has committed to partnering with the Province to support the construction of 18,000 new homes in Whitby by 2031. More healthcare infrastructure is needed to support this growth.

There is a gap in critical care in areas of high growth. The map below shows the location of the Whitby site depicted with the green dot. The red crosses depict the location of existing acute care hospitals in and near Durham. The red circles represent a 15-minute travel time to each hospital. The light orange shaded areas show approved areas of growth within the Durham Official Plan.

The topic of a new hospital in Durham was brought up in Queen's Park by Oshawa MP Jennifer French.

French brought up a recent appearance on the CKDO Morning show where Premier Doug Ford said there would be a hospital in the town.

"There's going to be Whitby hospital," he said. "Is it going to be tomorrow? Not tomorrow, but down the road, very shortly, we will be issuing the planning grants."

"We didn't see any planning grants in this year's budget, but since the Premier clearly promised on the radio to everyone waiting for a Durham hospital, my question is when will Durham get the planning grant for the new hospital at the proposed Whitby site?" French asked.

Ford responded by saying Durham will eventually get a hospital, but didn't specify a timeline.

He then went on to slam Whitby Mayor Elizabeth Roy

again and the town's campaign to get things moving on a new hospital.

"I don't even know if it's legal," said Ford. "She is asking for emails, collecting data and god knows for what. I have an idea why she's collecting data."

Ford didn't specify what he thinks Roy is doing with the information.

The campaign was put out by the town in February.

The town invited Whitby residents to sign their "call-to-action letter" or share a personal story.

There was also one question asking "What reasons do you have for having a hospital closer to home?"

Respondents were entered into a raffle draw for prizes such as an Apple Watch or gym membership

"She's holding like her little lottery," said Ford.

Roy addressed the issue when he first accused her of collecting data last week.

Town officials have denied that politicians have access to any email addresses, saying they were only collected as a way of making sure respondents could only fill out the survey once.

"I do not have their email addresses because that would be breaking the law," said Roy last week.

Ford also took issue to an event held last week where Roy updated the public on the hospital campaign alongside Whitby MP Ryan Turnbull.

"What's really staggering is when the Mayor of Whitby stands up there with a Liberal MP telling us we should use our healthcare funding to build a hospital," said Ford.

"She's (Roy) not informed, she doesn't have a clue what she's talking about with a Liberal MP [who] doesn't have clue they're talking about," said Ford. "We can't use that money directed by the federal government to build a hospital. Get your head around that. Understand that. Because I'll tell you the federal Liberal MP (Turnbull) won't be there much longer, by the way."

## ONTARIO CONTINUES TO BUILD A RESILIENT ECONOMY

Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, issued the following statement on today's monthly employment release by Statistics Canada, which showed Ontario added 26,100 jobs last month, including 11,400 jobs in the construction sector and 7,100 jobs in the manufacturing sector.

"As Ontario, like the rest of the world, continues to face economic uncertainty due to high interest rates and global instability, our government is building a more resilient economy that can weather any storm.

Last month, we released our 2024 Budget: Building a Better Ontario. The Budget outlines our government's plan to rebuild Ontario's economy without raising taxes. As part of our plan, we're creating the conditions to attract new investments and better jobs with bigger paycheques in every region of the province. This includes our government's \$140 million Regional Development Program (RDP) that provides targeted financial and advisory supports for small and medium-sized businesses.

To date, over 110 projects across Ontario have received support through the RDP, leveraging more than \$1.5 billion in new investments that have created over 2,800 good-paying jobs. Last month, we welcomed a \$32 million investment by EcoPoly Properties Inc., that will create 85 new jobs as the company enhances its existing production facility in Orillia.

As our population grows, we will continue working hard to create more good-paying jobs, strengthen Ontario's supply chains, and support long-term economic resilience across the province."

## DURHAM REGION'S BLUE BOX PROGRAM TRANSITIONS TO PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

No immediate impact for residents as current recycling program and schedules will remain unchanged during transition.

Starting July 1, 2024, Durham's Blue Box program will transition to being delivered by an organization named, "Circular Materials" on behalf of all producers of the products and packaging recycled in the Blue Box within Ontario. Although the responsibility for the blue box recycling program is changing, there will be no immediate change to how residents recycle during the transition

period.

What: The provincially regulated transition of the Blue Box program from municipalities to producers is planned to be seamless, and residents should not notice a change in service.

There will be no changes to the list of materials collected in the blue box or the blue box collection schedule from July 1, 2024, until completion of the transition to the new Ontario-wide collection system on December 31, 2025. Durham's recycling program will also continue to use two separate blue boxes for

papers and containers. Producers may make changes to the Blue Box Program after January 1, 2026.

When: Circular Materials will begin managing Durham Region's Blue Box program July 1, 2024.

Why: The Province created the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016, to "hold persons who are most responsible for the design of products and packaging responsible for the products and packaging at the end of life." It also created the

Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority to oversee and enforce the performance of the new Blue Box Program.

These changes will provide recycling to more communities across Ontario and move towards standardizing and expanding what can be recycled while ensuring that Producers continue providing a quality Blue Box recycling program. The aim is to improve waste management services across the province and reduce waste in our community.

"The transition of the Blue Box

program to Circular Materials, starting July 1, 2024, is anticipated to be seamless for residents.

During this period, there will be no changes to how residents recycle, and the program will continue to use two blue boxes for papers and containers. The creation of a province-wide program for recycling will continue to help reduce waste in our community."

Ramesh Jagannathan, Acting Commissioner of Works

"Circular Materials is looking forward to providing residents

of Durham region with a smooth transition of recycling services as of July 1, 2024. As a national non-profit organization, we are dedicated to leading by example, driving positive change, and making a lasting difference in communities across the country.

This transition in Durham Region marks another milestone in our journey, and we are excited to deliver a recycling program that meets the needs of residents and drives innovation and convenience." Allen Langdon, CEO of Circular Materials