

Expanding Access to Diagnostic Imaging and Surgeries in Durham Region

DURHAM — The Ontario Government is taking action to reduce wait times and expand access to critical health-care services by approving up to \$81 million in one-time funding to support 324,000 additional Computed Tomography (CT) scan hours at 86 hospitals across the province in 2025-26.

As part of this investment, Lakeridge Health in the Region of Durham will receive \$2,545,750 to increase CT scan capacity, helping patients access timely diagnostic imaging closer to home.

In addition, the Ontario Government is providing Incremental Surgical Funding to hospitals to support more surgeries and reduce surgical backlogs. This funding will help hospitals complete additional procedures, including neurosurgeries, orthopedic surgeries such as hip and knee replacements, gynecologic surgeries, cataract surgeries, hernia surgeries, and pediatric surgeries, among others. Through this initiative, Lakeridge Health will receive \$172,700.

"Our government is making targeted investments to reduce wait times and improve access to care for patients in Whitby and across the Durham Region," said Lorne Coe, MPP for Whitby, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Colleges,

Universities, Research Excellence, and Security. "By increasing access to diagnostic imaging and supporting additional surgeries at Lakeridge Health, we are helping ensure families in Whitby and across the Durham Region can get the care they need, when they need it, closer to home."

"Timely diagnostic imaging is critical to helping patients in Durham access the care they need," said Todd McCarthy, MPP for Durham, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and acting Minister of Infrastructure. "By investing in additional CT imaging hours at Lakeridge Health and funding more surgeries and procedures, our government is taking action to reduce surgical backlogs and provide access to the right care, at the right time, in the right place."

"This investment will make a real difference for patients and families in Durham, ensuring our local hospitals have the tools they need to deliver timely, high-quality care," said Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP for Pickering-Uxbridge, and Minister of Finance. "By expanding diagnostic imaging and surgical capacity at Lakeridge Health, we are strengthening community health care and helping people get the care they need, closer to home."

These investments are part of Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care, the government's plan to modernize Ontario's

health-care system, expand access to critical services, and ensure patients receive the right care, at the right time.

"This investment will make a real difference for patients and families who depend on timely diagnostic imaging. Any step that improves access to care is a step in the right direction." Councillor Lisa Robinson, Pickering councillor.

"Today's announcement brings us closer to our vision of One System. Best Health. This investment enables Lakeridge Health to continue reducing wait times while expanding access to critical surgical and diagnostic imaging services for the people of Durham Region. We're deeply grateful for this support, which helps us meet the growing health care needs of one of Ontario's fastest-growing regions."

- Cynthia Davis, CEO, Lakeridge Health

"Continued investment in health care is essential to supporting the well-being of Durham residents. We appreciate the Province's commitment to strengthening health care in Durham Region and ensuring people can access the services they need close to home."

These investments help build a more responsive and accessible system that can meet the needs of our growing region—today and for the future."

- John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer for The Regional Municipality of Durham

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Early morning blaze at Harwood Plaza in Ajax put out

A blaze erupted at Harwood Plaza, located at 300 Harwood Avenue South, just south of Highway 401. The Town of Ajax said the local fire department responded to a call for service at 2 am at 170 Commercial Avenue. A business named Ajax Textile Corp. is located at that nearby address. No injuries were reported. No further details were released.

"On behalf of the Town of Ajax and our entire community, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Ajax Fire and Emergency Services, Pickering Fire Services, the Durham Regional Police Service, Region of Durham Paramedic Services and Durham Region Transit for their swift, professional and coordinated response to the early morning fire at the Ajax Plaza," said Mayor Shaun Collier.

"Ajax is fortunate to be supported by such outstanding emergency services, and I thank them for their continued service to our community," he added.



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