

Ontario Expanding Cardiac Care in Sault Ste. Marie

Province Improving Access to Coronary Angioplasty for Northern Ontario Patients

NEWS

July 13, 2017

Ontario is reducing wait times for people receiving heart disease treatment in the North by investing in Sault Area Hospital's cardiac care program.

Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, was at Sault Area Hospital today to announce the government's commitment to bringing cardiac angioplasty to Sault Ste. Marie.

Sault Area Hospital is already equipped with a state-of-the-art coronary angiography suite where cardiologists perform more than 850 angiograms per year. The additional angioplasty procedure will take just 10 to 15 minutes and it will help up to 500 patients each year receive timely treatment and avoid travelling to Sudbury or Toronto for angioplasty.

When the project is complete, cardiac patients will benefit from a new, additional laboratory that will provide full cardiac treatment and procedures in northern Ontario.

Ontario is increasing access to care, reducing wait times, and improving the patient experience through its [Patients First Action Plan for Health Care](#) and OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare – protecting health care today and into the future.

QUOTES

“Our government is committed to bringing this life-saving procedure to Sault Area Hospital. Expanding cardiac care in Sault Ste. Marie is part of our plan to put patients first by ensuring they receive the high-quality health services they need, closer to home.”

— Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

“The North East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) has worked with the Sault Area Hospital to support expanding its cardiac care program because it means bringing care closer to home for patients who live in the area. Improving access to coronary angioplasty in Sault Ste. Marie will reduce the stress on patients and their families of having to travel to another city. With more physicians performing this service, timely access will be improved throughout the region – great news for Northerners!”

— Kate Fyfe, Interim CEO of the North East LHIN

“Our ability to improve cardiac care for our community and area by providing cardiac angioplasty at Sault Area Hospital demonstrates our commitment to delivering quality, patient-centred care close to home. We are grateful for the support of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Northeast Local Health Integration Network, the Cardiac Care Networks, and our community health partners for supporting the expansion of our Cardiac Care Program.”

— Dr. Silvana Spadafora, Chief of Staff, Sault Area Hospital

QUICK FACTS

- An angiogram is an X-ray of blood or lymph vessels used to make a diagnosis.
- Cardiac angioplasty is a life-saving, non-surgical procedure that uses a catheter (a thin flexible tube) to dilate the blood vessel with a small balloon and place a small structure called a stent to open up blood vessels in the heart.
- This project at Sault Area Hospital proposes the redevelopment of 2,040 square feet of undeveloped space next to the existing cardiac catheterization laboratory to expand access to cardiac care services.
- Ontario is expanding the Northern Health Travel Grant Program by \$10 million in 2017-18, which helps people in northern Ontario cover their travel costs for services or procedures that are not available in their local communities.
- Ontario is making the largest investment in hospitals, schools, public transit, roads and bridges in the province's history – more than \$190 billion in public infrastructure over 13 years, starting in 2014-15. To learn more about what's happening in your community, go to Ontario.ca/BuildON.

LEARN MORE

- [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#)
- [Building Together](#), Ontario's long-term infrastructure plan
- [Sault Area Hospital](#)

For public inquiries call ServiceOntario, INFOline at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only)

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