



David Orazietti, M.P.P. Sault Ste. Marie **News Release**

For Immediate Release
May 15, 2015

ORAZIETTI ANNOUNCES \$2.4 MILLION FOR 50 NEW LONG-TERM CARE BEDS IN SAULT STE. MARIE

Ontario Government Continues to Invest in More Long-Term Care Beds for Local Seniors

Sault Ste. Marie - New long-term care beds opening in Sault Ste Marie will provide the right care in the right place for frail elderly residents, cutting wait times to receive long-term care, helping to improve the flow of patients in and out of the hospital and creating up to 55 new jobs, David Orazietti MPP announced today.

“Our government is committed to continuing to strengthen health care in our city and the investment in these additional 50 beds will help improve the health and well-being of our seniors,” said Orazietti. “It’s critical that we ensure our seniors receive the dignity, respect and quality of life they deserve as they age and today’s announcement builds on our progress to provide quality care closer to home.”

Seniors and community leaders gathered at 860 Great Northern Road today to tour Cedarwood Lodge. Operated by Autumnwood Community Care Inc., Cedarwood Lodge will become home to 50 seniors, many of whom have been waiting in hospital as alternate level of care patients.

“We have been working with community partners to find the right fit – an operator who could provide quality long-term care to seniors. We are pleased that Autumnwood has stepped forward,” said Louise Paquette, CEO of the North East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

The province is investing \$2,399,987 million for the new long term care beds, aimed at providing quality care to people in our community. The creation of the beds was a key component of the Alternate Level of Care Plan for Sault Ste Marie, developed in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, North East LHIN, Sault Area Hospital and community partners.

“This is good news for these seniors and also the hospital, as it will help with the flow of patients and impact wait times in the emergency department,” said North East LHIN Board Director Toni Nanne-Little. “These investments are about making sure that people have choice and that they can access the right care, at the right time.”

“With Cedarwood Lodge opening as soon as next week, we are excited to be welcoming our first residents into their new home shortly,” said Joe DiPietro, President of Autumnwood. “With meals prepared on site daily and served in a homelike environment, an appropriate activation and recreation program intended to promote health and wellness and our commitment to compassionate care and service we hope the new residents are excited as well.”

Since 2003 some provincial investments in long-term care include:

- Increase to Long-Term Care funding from \$2.1 billion in 2003 to \$3.83 billion in 2014
- Opened more than 9,000 new long-term care beds
- Re-building 35,000 beds over the next 10-15 years which represents more than half the homes in the province

- Increases in the comfort allowance, so residents could have more discretionary income
- Increasing the number of nurse practitioners in long-term care homes by 75 new positions over three years, starting with 30 in the fall of 2015
- Provide one-on-one physiotherapy for all residents with assessed need in addition to group exercise classes
- Investments to train LTC home staff to improve resident safety, quality of care and abuse prevention (one-time funding of \$10million in 2012-13 and \$10 million in 2013-14)
- Invested \$59 million to improve care for residents with dementia/challenging behaviours
- Funded over 10,000 new full-time frontline staff since 2003 and we have added an additional 2,500 personal support workers (PSWs)

QUICK FACTS

- The North East LHIN is responsible for planning, integrating, coordinating and providing funding to 145 health service providers, including Long Term Care homes, in Northeastern Ontario. It oversees \$1.4-billion in local health care investments on behalf of the 565,000 residents of Northeastern Ontario
- Over the next 20 years, the population of seniors aged 65 and over in the North East will increase from today's 20% to more than 30%
- In the past fiscal year, the North East LHIN provided \$209 million in base funding and another \$4.2 million in one-time funding to 40 long-term care homes across Northeastern Ontario
- In Northeastern Ontario, there now 5,046 long-term care home beds (the highest bed rate per capita), of which 843 are located in Sault Ste. Marie

LEARN MORE

- [Patients First Action Plan for Health Care](#)

-30-

Contact David Oraziotti at (705) 949-6959.

Constituency Office: 432 Great Northern Road #202, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 4Z9 Tel: 705-949-6959
 Fax: 705-946-6269
 Queen's Park: 6th Floor, Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto ON M7A 1L2
 Tel: 416-327-8300 Fax: 416-326-1947
 Email: doraziotti.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org