

LAMBTON-KENT-MIDDLESEX



MONTE MCNAUGHTON, MPP

MEDIA RELEASE



Ontario approves continued expansion at London Health Sciences Centre

Announcement is accompanied by \$1.3 million in additional funding for four Middlesex hospitals to increase surgical capacity in region

STRATHROY – The Ontario government is investing over \$10 million in the next phase of the Ambulatory Surgical Centre (ASC) project at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC). When complete, the project will allow the hospital to perform more than 500 additional orthopedic surgeries a year and more than 3,000 total.

“Our government is making historic investments in critical projects for our communities like hospitals, schools, and roads,” said Monte McNaughton, MPP for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex. “This expansion at LHSC is part of our mission to ensure everyone in Middlesex and southwestern Ontario has access to quality healthcare when they need it.”

In March 2020, LHSC completed the construction of two additional operating rooms for orthopedic surgeries like hip and knee replacements. This has allowed the hospital to decrease operating costs by 56 per cent by standardizing care, reducing the number of instruments on surgical trays, and reducing the turnover time between patients from 23 minutes to 9 minutes.

In addition to the ASC expansion, the government is investing a combined \$1,314,703 in LHSC, St. Joseph's Health Care, and the Middlesex Hospital Alliance, to help them reduce wait times and increase access to care. Funding comes from the province's Surgical Innovation Fund, which is intended to help hospitals perform more surgeries and procedures for their community.

“Throughout the pandemic, Ontario's hospitals have been unwavering in their commitment to ensuring that Ontarians receive the exceptional care they need, when they need it,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “This new fund will support hospitals across the province as they develop the innovative solutions needed to continue to provide high quality care and ramp up surgical capacity, reducing wait times and improving access to surgical services for patients.”

At LHSC, the Surgical Innovation Fund will be used to purchase additional equipment for arthroplasty surgeries and the creation of a regular operating room at Victoria Hospital. St. Joseph's Healthcare will use the funds to transfer more patients from the main Operating Room into clinics, while the Middlesex Hospital Alliance is upgrading their HVAC system and Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital is purchasing additional ultrasound machines, stretchers, and portable bedside monitors.

"Our region is one of the fastest-growing areas in the province," said Dr. Jackie Schleifer Taylor, President and Chief Executive Officer, London Health Sciences Centre. "These funds allow us to effectively grow alongside our community, ensuring access and provision of excellent health care for those who need us. We appreciate the government's collaboration to help us improve the orthopedic surgical experience for patients in our community."

SURGICAL INNOVATION FUNDING

London Health Sciences Centre	\$830,000
St. Joseph's Health Care London	\$251,103
Middlesex Hospital Alliance	\$233,600

Quick Facts

- Under the 2021 Budget, Ontario is investing an additional \$1.8 billion in the hospital sector in 2021-2022, bringing the total additional investment in hospitals since the start of the pandemic to over \$5.1 billion.
- As part of the province's \$2.8 billion [fall preparedness plan](#), the government has invested \$283.7 million to assist the health system's ongoing efforts to reduce surgical wait times.
- Ontario Health Teams are helping to maintain hospital capacity by coordinating programs that link hospitals, primary care, home and community care services, long-term care homes, congregate settings and other services, as well as supporting virtual care, online appointment booking and patients' digital access to their health information.

Additional Resources

- [2021 Budget - Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy](#)

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