

Ministry of Health

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Response to Petition No. 120
43rd Parliament, 1st Session
Tabled:
AMP OCT 24 2023

Sessional Paper No. P-120

P-120 Chesley and District Memorial Hospital (Sessional Paper No. 120) (Tabled by MPP Fife, Catherine (Waterloo), 05/18/2023)

Response:

Our government knows emergency departments across the country have faced capacity pressures year after year. We know the status quo is not working and more needs to be done, that's why earlier this year we launched Your Health, our plan to connect more Ontarians to the care they need, when and where they need it.

Through our plan we are reducing wait times and the surgical backlog and bolstering our health care workforce through programs like As of Right credentials which allows healthcare workers across Canada to work in Ontario immediately, launching the extern program which offers employment opportunities in hospitals to nursing and medical school students, working with regulatory colleges to break down barriers for internationally educated healthcare workers, expanded the Learn and Stay Grant to improve care in underserved areas and launching the largest medical school expansion in 15 years. These programs build on the 63,000 new nurses and 8,000 new physicians that have registered in Ontario since 2018.

Our government has also introduced programs to support hospitals and staff facing increased emergency room pressure. Earlier this summer we announced an additional \$44 million investment to support emergency departments at every hospital across the province, including smaller and rural hospitals. At the beginning of the summer, our government announced the expansion of the temporary locum program which provides physician coverage to eligible hospitals in small and rural communities.

We are proud to have one of the largest publicly funded healthcare systems in the world, a system we have invested nearly \$80 billion in this year. Our government is expanding capacity across the province and getting shovels in the ground for 50 hospital developments over 10 years that will add over 3,000 beds, to connect Ontarians to the care they need now and into the future.

We are taking an all-hands-on deck approach to building a more connected and convenient healthcare system so Ontarians across the province can have access to more services in their community, shorter wait times and greater access to high-quality care.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sylvia Jones".

Honourable Sylvia Jones