

**Ontario Moving Forward With New Niagara Hospital**  
*Dr. Kevin Smith Continues Leadership Role in Niagara Health System  
as Supervision Ends*

**NEWS**

January 13, 2014

Ontario is moving forward with its plans to construct a new Niagara hospital in order to improve access to health care in the growing region.

The province is providing the Niagara Health System with \$26.2 million to plan a new hospital in South Niagara and two Urgent Care Centres, as proposed by Dr. Kevin Smith's report on the future of health care in the Niagara region. These sites are intended to replace five aging sites located in Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Welland and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

This planning grant will support the early planning stages by defining the programs and services to be provided in order to meet local health care needs, and preparing plans for the size and site of the new hospital and Urgent Care Centres.

The new hospital and two new urgent care centres will result better care and better service delivery for people living in all of the communities in the Niagara region, including Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Welland and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The government also announced that it is taking the Niagara Health System out of supervision, and that Dr. Kevin Smith will continue to serve the NHS in a continuing leadership role.

Better access to high quality health care supports [Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care](#), by providing the right care, at the right time and in the right place. This initiative supports Ontario government's economic plan to invest in people, build modern infrastructure and support a dynamic and innovative business climate.

**QUOTE**

"Our government is committed to a new, state-of-the-art hospital in South Niagara, and to ensuring that every community in the region has timely access to best quality health care. This is great news for the people of Niagara and would not have happened without their local support. I want to thank Dr. Kevin Smith for his valuable advice, and I am pleased that in his continuing role, the people of Niagara will continue to benefit from his leadership."

— Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

"We've made tremendous progress to get the Niagara Health System on solid footing. Our staff, physicians and volunteers are to be commended for their work to ensure Niagara residents receive the highest quality care. Now it's time to finish the job. A new hospital is the way forward to ensure the Niagara Health System meets growing future health care demands in the region. This hospital will become a hub for high quality, patient-centred care. Today is an exciting first step in that direction."

— Dr. Kevin Smith, President & CEO, St. Joseph's Health System

“I am thrilled to announce that Dr. Kevin Smith has agreed to serve as CEO of the Niagara Health System, now that supervision has ended, in addition to his current role at St. Joseph’s Health System. This news, along with the government’s commitment to a new hospital and two new urgent care centres in the region, means that the future of health care in our community has never been brighter.”

— Dr. Barry Wright, Chair, Niagara Health System Board of Directors

“Building this hospital is about creating efficiency, saving money and providing the most up to date and accessible health care for the residents of Niagara. We are very positive about this exciting step by the government and look forward to getting the shovel in the ground.”

— Mayor Jim Diodati, City of Niagara Falls

## QUICK FACTS

- NHS has signed a management contract with St. Joseph’s Health System to allow Dr. Smith to serve as CEO of both health systems.
- Today’s announcement is a response to recommendations made by the Niagara Health System Supervisor Dr. Kevin Smith, who was appointed to that role in August 2011.
- The NHS serves 434,000 residents across the 12 municipalities making up the Regional Municipality of Niagara.
- Ontario has increased funding for NHS by over 65 per cent since 2003-04.
- Since 2003, 23 new hospitals have been built or are being constructed across Ontario.

## LEARN MORE

- [Ontario’s Action Plan for Health Care](#)

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

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