



West Lincoln Memorial Hospital
Provincial Announcement – Nov. 28, 2018

Questions and Answers

Key messages:

- HHS remains committed to the rebuild of our West Lincoln Memorial Hospital (WLMH) site.
- On Nov. 28, 2018 the Premier of Ontario announced new funding to support our WLMH site. Those funds are as follows:
 - \$8.5 million to improve basic infrastructure at the site, including plumbing, ventilation, and electrical.
 - \$500,000 to allow HHS to continue planning for the rebuild of WLMH.
- We are very grateful for the Government of Ontario's support of our effort to maintain and rebuild our WLMH site.
- With [this announcement](#), we can continue addressing some of the facility shortcomings at WLMH, and at the same time continue planning to rebuild the site.
- A working group of HHS medical staff and administrative leaders has begun to meet regularly to propose solutions that ensure patient safety in the operating rooms and the surgical support areas of the site.

Q: What does this funding allow HHS to do?

The provincial investment does two things:

1. Funds basic infrastructure renewal at our WLMH site, including upgrades to plumbing, ventilation, and electrical (\$8.5 million).
2. Allows HHS to continue planning for the rebuild of our WLMH site (\$500,000).

The funding announcement helps us start to address some important facility shortcomings at WLMH and at the same time continue planning to rebuild the site. We anticipate it will be at least five years or more until a new facility is complete.

Q: What exactly is included in this Health & Safety Infrastructure upgrade project?

The \$8.5 million in provincial funding will support the following:

- 2 new emergency generators
- Replacement of electrical switchgear
- Replacement of air handling units (HVAC)
- Millwork and flooring replacement in selected areas
- Replacement of some plumbing fixtures
- Fire alarm upgrades
- Upgrades to the site's two elevators

All these infrastructure components are required to sustain the facility until our WLMH site is rebuilt.

Q: How long will this infrastructure work last at the site?

We expect the project will take two years to complete. The sequence of the work to be undertaken and timelines will be determined in consultation with the contractor and clinical programs to accommodate weather, equipment delivery and the needs of patients, staff and physicians.

Q. Will this funding be used to support upgrades to surgical services at the WLMH site?

No. This funding is in response to a request HHS originally submitted in 2014 to the province. It allows us to proceed with the renewal of basic infrastructure at WLMH, including plumbing, ventilation and electrical.

A working group of HHS medical staff and administrative leaders has begun to meet regularly to propose solutions that ensure patient safety in the operating rooms and the surgical support areas of the site.

They are examining possible infrastructure updates and clinical service delivery models within the operating rooms and endoscopy reprocessing facilities at WLMH that will allow the maintenance of surgical and obstetrical services to patients, ensuring adherence to safety standards until we rebuild the site.

We are continuing to operate and support all our WLMH services in the interim, while we work through this process. We will share updates on the progress of this working group in the coming weeks.

Q: Why can't you use the money to fund the renovations to the surgical areas at WLMH?

That is not how government capital grants of this nature work. These grants are awarded for specific and detailed projects. The \$8.5 million of funding announced today is in response to a funding application made in 2014 for the specific purpose of renewing specific infrastructure of the site.

The facility has experienced some temporary loss of clinical programs and services on a number of occasions because of failing infrastructure. Our fire, communication and electrical systems are all at end of life and at constant risk of failure.

The reality is we face a variety of challenges in maintaining services in our WLMH site until the rebuild is complete five years or more from now. A working group of HHS medical staff and administrative leaders has begun to meet regularly to propose solutions that ensure patient safety in the operating rooms and the surgical support areas of the site.

Q: Why is it so urgent to focus on the infrastructure and not the surgical areas?

The mechanical and electrical infrastructure that will be renovated supports all clinical areas of our WLMH site. Essential upgrades and replacements are needed because breakdowns that would compromise patient care/safety are occurring, requiring ongoing repairs and are likely to increase if we do not complete this work.

Q: Does the absence of funding to renovate the surgical area at WLMH mean that surgery and obstetrics services will be relocated?

A working group of HHS medical staff and administrative leaders is working to propose solutions that maintain patient safety in the operating rooms and the surgical support areas of the site.

They are examining possible infrastructure updates and clinical service delivery models within the operating rooms and endoscopy reprocessing facilities at WLMH that will allow the maintenance of surgical and obstetrical services to patients, ensuring adherence to safety standards until we rebuild the site.

Q: Can HHS guarantee that surgery and obstetrics will remain available at WLMH?

We continue to explore options related to obstetrics and surgical services at our WLMH site with our staff and medical professionals. We must find ways to meet safety standards in the current facility until the rebuild is complete five years or more from today.

Any service relocations required for any reason would be temporary. All services would return to WLMH.

Q: What does the \$500,000 planning grant for the rebuild of WLMH actually mean?

We are following a five-stage planning process required by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. We have completed Stage 1. The grant moves supports the ongoing planning for the rebuild of WLMH.

The planning grant will help us continue to plan the rebuild of our WLMH site and help ensure its future for decades to come. This plan includes providing obstetrics, surgery and endoscopy services at the site.

This new funding is in addition to the \$2.5 million *Our Healthy Future* planning grant received by HHS and helps build on the planning work undertaken since 2015.

Q: When will we know more about plans for the rebuild of WLMH?

The \$500,000 announced by the MOHLTC today will allow us to continue planning. We will keep our staff, physicians and the community informed and involved as we progress.