

Ontario Funding New Children's Hospice Beds in Toronto

Province Investing Additional \$625,600 in Emily's House

NEWS

August 26, 2016

Ontario is increasing its annual investment in Emily's House by \$625,600 to support the opening of four new children's palliative care beds in Toronto.

Emily's House is a hospice that services children with complex, life-limiting, chronic conditions and prognoses. Emily's House provides respite, pain and symptom management, end-of-life care, transition care, and bereavement support for siblings and parents.

Emily's House currently has six beds supported through provincial funding. Ontario's new investment will help fund the operation of four new beds, bringing the total annual government funding of Emily's House to over \$1.56 million. These four new beds could allow for approximately 150 more admissions to Emily's House each year.

This investment supports Ontario's commitment to strengthen access to palliative care across the province. In the 2016 Budget, Ontario invested an additional \$75 million over three years to provide patients with more options and access to community-based palliative and end-of-life care. This includes a \$13.9 million increase in funding for existing hospice beds across the province and funding to support the commitment to expand hospice care to include up to 20 new hospices across Ontario at the new funding rate.

This funding for hospice care will help ensure high-quality hospice palliative care remains in the community for future generations. This investment will enhance compassionate end-of-life support that relieves suffering and improves the quality of living and dying.

Investing in palliative care is part of the government's plan to build a better Ontario through its [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#), which provides patients with faster access to the right care; better home and community care; the information they need to live healthy; and a health care system that is sustainable for generations to come. It is also part of Ontario's [Patients First: Roadmap to Strengthen Home and Community Care](#), which is the government's plan to improve and expand home and community care over the next three years.

QUOTES

"Hospices in Ontario do an excellent job of providing high quality and compassionate care in our communities. This new funding will support the critical role that Emily's House plays in our city, and is an important part of our government's commitment to expand hospice palliative care across the province so that even more people can benefit from their supports."

— Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

"I'm proud of our government's commitment to expanding the availability and quality of palliative and respite hospice care in Ontario. Emily's House is a special place for families facing serious health challenges and devastating grief. As the only facility of its kind in Toronto, I'm pleased to see Emily's House expand, so these children can spend their most difficult days in a comfortable and loving environment, surrounded by family, generous volunteers, and caring staff."

— Arthur Potts, MPP Beaches-East York."

“We are grateful to Minister Eric Hoskins and his government for supporting the need for timely access and availability to pediatric palliative care in this province. This new infusion of funds will allow Emily's House to expand from six to 10 beds, and offer programs and supports to more families throughout their children's illness trajectory. The ministry's investment demonstrates that this government understands the need to provide comfort, support and compassionate care when there is no cure. This is a positive step forward on the path of putting patients first.”

— Rauni Salminen, Chief Executive Officer, Philip Aziz Centre - Emily's House

“We are fortunate to have the specialized palliative care services that Emily's House provides to patients and their families right here in the Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network.

Making these additional investments in palliative care is helping to ensure more families have access to supportive and compassionate end-of-life care closer to home.”

— Susan Fitzpatrick, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network

QUICK FACTS

- As part of the 2016 Budget, Ontario announced an additional investment of \$75 million in hospice and palliative care over the next three years. This additional spending will be on top of the \$80 million already invested in hospice and palliative care, bringing the total investment to \$155 million from April 2016 to April 2019.
- Ontario is providing funding increases for facilities that provide hospice care across the province. The province's support for the new hospice beds in Toronto is part of its commitment to support up to 200 additional hospice beds.
- Ontario recently released the [Palliative and End-of-Life Care Provincial Roundtable Report](#), which compiled feedback from province-wide consultations led by John Fraser, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. The report will help Ontario develop a comprehensive strategy on palliative and end-of-life care, which will focus on supporting families and caregivers, and ensuring access to co-ordinated quality care where patients want it.
- Ontario recently launched the Ontario Palliative Care Network, a partnership among Cancer Care Ontario, Ontario's Local Health Integration Networks, Health Quality Ontario and other partners, including members from diverse care settings and caregivers, clinical representatives and associations.

LEARN MORE

- [Palliative and End-of-Life Care Provincial Roundtable Report](#)
- [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#)
- [Ontario's Roadmap to Strengthen Home and Community Care](#)
- [Hospice Palliative Care Ontario](#)
- [Emily's House](#)

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

Media Contacts:

Shae Greenfield, Minister's Office, 416-325-5230

Joanne Woodward Fraser, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, 416-327-5110

**ontario.ca/health-
news**

Disponible en français