

October 27, 2006

WHAT OUR HEALTH CARE PARTNERS ARE SAYING ABOUT ONTARIO'S EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ACTION PLAN

"These initiatives announced today are important steps forward in addressing the challenges in Ontario's emergency departments," said Dr. David Bach, President of the Ontario Medical Association.

"Improving the ability of emergency department physicians to respond to the needs of patients will help recruit new doctors to emergency medicine and retain those already practicing there."

"Many of the recommendations of the Physician Hospital Care Committee report on Emergency Department overcrowding are addressed by the Ministry's announcement," said Dr. Robert Bell, chair of the joint committee and President and CEO of University Health Network. "We look forward to working as a tripartite committee to help improve the condition of Ontario Emergency Departments for both patients and the professional staff who provide these important services."

"Ontario's hospitals are partners in developing solutions to the challenges facing our health care system," said Ontario Hospital Association President and CEO Hilary Short. "One of the most important aspects of today's announcement is that it recognizes that access to emergency room care is not just a hospital issue. Today's investment in health human resources, hospital services and community funding recognizes that a comprehensive approach is needed to stabilize and strengthen access to emergency room services."

"I am so pleased to see that the Minister has provided a system wide response to the challenges facing the Provinces emergency departments," said Camille Orridge, Executive Director of Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre. "So often the emergency departments have been the trouble spots of the health care system but the issues did not originate there, they simply ended there."

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