



WEENEEBAYKO AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY

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MEDIA RELEASE

Ontario Adding 129 Hospital Beds Across Northern Ontario

Weeneebayko Area Health Authority will receive 25 hospital beds for James Bay and Hudson Bay Region

November 09, 2020 (Moose Factory) – Weeneebayko Area Health Authority is to benefit from Ontario hospital investment. This will increase the hospital capacity, reduce surgical backlogs and improve access to care closer to home.

The province states that;

“In Northern Ontario, a number of health science facilities and hospitals will be receiving close to \$13 million for up to 129 total patient beds to help alleviate hospital capacity pressures and reduce wait times. This includes 28 beds at Kirkland Lake District Hospital, 12 beds at the Lake of the Woods District Hospital in Kenora, 15 beds at Sensenbrenner Hospital in Kapuskasing, 25 beds in Weeneebayko Area Health Authority in Moose Factory, 28 beds and 1 additional critical care bed at Health Sciences North in Sudbury and 30 hospital beds in the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.”

“This investment by our government demonstrates our continuing commitment to make a difference in providing patient health care and hospital beds where they are required most urgently across the north”, said Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines & Minister of Indigenous Affairs – MPP Kenora-Rainy River.

“The new beds announced today are in addition to the \$234.5 million investment for 139 critical care beds and up to 1,349 hospital beds included in Ontario’s fall preparedness plan, [Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19](#). This brings the total investment to \$351 million for more than 2,250 new beds at 57 hospitals and alternate health facilities across the province - beds that will add more capacity for hospitals, help with occupancy pressures and support the continuation of surgeries and procedures.”

“Our government is making the necessary investments to quickly and effectively increase hospital capacity and reduce wait times for patients and families across Northern Ontario,” said Minister Elliott. “This additional investment will ensure our health care system is able to respond to future waves of COVID-19 and help patients waiting for surgeries and other procedures get the care they need, faster.”

“WAHA welcomes the announcement of 25 beds in our region to enable us to provide care as close to home as possible, along with reducing surgical back log, wait times, will alleviate additional pressures on our health care system, to also increase capacity to ensure we are meeting the needs of our people in the James & Hudson Bay Region,” Lynne Innes, President and Chief Executive Officer, Weeneebayko Area Health Authority.

