



MEDIA RELEASE

BRIDGEPOINT HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT GETS GREEN LIGHT FROM PROVINCE

Toronto, December 16 – In an announcement made today at Bridgepoint Health, The Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal confirmed The Government of Ontario’s commitment to build a new hospital for complex care and rehabilitation (Bridgepoint Hospital), located at Broadview Avenue and Gerrard Street in Toronto.

The new hospital, part of Bridgepoint’s larger site redevelopment plan, has been in the planning stages for more than three years and will lay the foundation for Ontario’s health care system to provide 21st century health care to the fastest growing segment of health system users – people with complex chronic disease and disability.

The redevelopment plan calls for the building of a complex care and complex rehabilitation hospital expressly designed for patients affected by diseases and disabilities such as multiple sclerosis, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, acquired brain injury, stroke, cancer, end stage renal disease, and other complex illnesses. It will also provide improved rehabilitation capacity for important procedures like hip and knee surgeries and other interventions required by an aging population.

The new Bridgepoint Health facilities will ‘change the world’ for people living with complex disease and disability by providing facilities specifically designed to serve this population.

In his remarks, Minister Caplan stated that, "This Government announcement will give residents better access to complex continuing care and rehabilitation services that are so important to everyone in our community. This project and other hospital projects we have announced are benefiting people and communities all over the province."

"This is an incredibly important announcement for people with complex chronic illness and disability. Today, we have a commitment from The Government of Ontario that the unique care needs of this rapidly growing patient population will be met, both now and in the future," said Marian Walsh, President and CEO, Bridgepoint Health.

"Our patients today, and the thousands more that we will serve in the future, need complex chronic disease management and rehabilitation treatments in facilities that are adequate to serve their medical and therapeutic needs."

The new hospital facility will relieve the congestion of the current hospital building, upgrade treatment capabilities through the use of advanced medical and information technologies, and enhance Bridgepoint's research and education mandate.

The new facilities will also be home to the only complex care research institute in the country, allowing researchers to develop new approaches to care and treatment and enable Bridgepoint to train the next generation of health care providers in this burgeoning new frontier of health care.

The expanded campus will integrate the community with Bridgepoint Health, by adaptively reusing one of Toronto's most significant buildings – the historic Don Jail. The Jail will be refurbished, while respecting its heritage elements, turning it from a foreboding place into a community gathering space, offering access to health promotion, disease prevention and chronic illness management services.

"This is an important step in terms of health care sustainability in the Province, by refocusing the attention of the health care community on the people who account for over 60% of all health care dollars spent today," said Ms. Walsh. Today's announcement is good news for us, for the people we serve and for Ontario's health care system."

"Today's announcement would not have been possible without the support of our patients, families, staff, volunteers and the Municipal and Provincial Governments. This was truly a team effort and we look forward to continuing to work with all of our stakeholders as we transform this significant corner in the City of Toronto," added Bob Carman, Chair of Bridgepoint Health's Board of Directors.

BRIDGEPOINT HEALTH is an integrated health services organization focused on providing a continuum of care for people who require specialized complex care. The Bridgepoint Health network comprises Bridgepoint Hospital; Bridgepoint Health Research Institute; Bridgepoint Centre for Living (a planned long-term care centre); Bridgepoint Community Rehab (a not-for-profit hospital and community-based rehabilitation service); and Bridgepoint Health Foundation, which supports the programming and development goals of Bridgepoint Health.

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