

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Celebrates Progress at Accelerated Long-Term Care Home in Ajax

Project will bring much-needed beds to Durham Region

August 27, 2021

[Ministry of Long-Term Care \[u21120259.ct.sendgrid.net\]](https://u21120259.ct.sendgrid.net)

AJAX —Today, Rod Phillips, Minister of Long-term Care and MPP for Ajax, Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance and MPP for Pickering—Uxbridge, and Lorne Coe, MPP for Whitby, joined leaders from Lakeridge Health, Infrastructure Ontario and PCL Construction to celebrate the “topping off” of the new long-term care home being built at Lakeridge Health’s Ajax Pickering Hospital. A topping off ceremony is a tradition on construction sites, signifying that the highest point of a building has been reached.

“Today’s topping off moves this home one step closer to completion and Ontario one step closer to delivering 30,000 much-needed long-term care beds over 10 years,” said Minister Phillips. “Located on the same grounds as the Ajax Pickering Hospital, this state-of-the-art long-term care home is expected to be ready to meet its residents in the spring, with 320 new beds for seniors in Durham to call home, near their family and friends.”

The long-term care home at Lakeridge Health will provide state-of-the-art care and comfort in a modern, safe environment. The home will also be part of a campus of care to ensure residents have close access to the specialized and complex care they need, and better integrate the long-term care home into the broader health care system.

This pilot program is another example of the government’s historic investment in long-term care, which includes a \$2.68 billion investment for the delivery of 30,000 safe, modern, comfortable beds over the next decade. The province’s approach also includes traditional build projects and the sale of surplus provincial lands, enabling new homes to be developed in urban areas where land cost and availability have limited the number of new builds. Together, these innovative initiatives are creating more long-term care beds across Ontario in areas where they are most needed.

“This is an exciting milestone for Lakeridge Health and Durham Region. In addition to promoting the health and safety of seniors with a range of needs and abilities, the new long-term care home will support staff and physicians delivering the highest level of quality care and advance Lakeridge Health’s vision of *One System. Best Health*,” said Cynthia Davis, President and CEO, Lakeridge Health. “We are truly grateful for our exceptional partnership with the Ministry of Long-Term Care, Infrastructure Ontario and PCL, as well as the many experts and stakeholders who have shared their knowledge and lived experience to guide us.”

“We are privileged to build facilities that have a profound effect upon the lives and health of Ontarians,” said Michael Lindsay, President and CEO, Infrastructure Ontario. “We are proud that, in this case, we were able to create an innovative approach to procurement and construction that allows us to celebrate today’s topping off just one year after the project was

first announced. This would not have been possible without the strong partnership we have with our partners at MLTC, Lakeridge Health and PCL.”

“Achieving a topping off milestone in just eight months is an exceptional achievement that would not be possible without the passionate commitment of everyone involved,” said Todd Craigen, President of Eastern Canada, PCL Constructors Canada Inc. “Thank you to all of our partners and the nearly 310 women and men whose daily commitment to safety, over two shifts per day, has enabled us to reach this milestone during a global pandemic in order to advance safe and healthy homes for seniors in the Durham Region.”

Quick Facts

- The Accelerated Build Pilot Program’s innovative approach leverages hospital-owned land and accelerated construction techniques to build urgently needed homes more quickly, in large urban areas where land cost and availability are significant challenges for prospective developers.
- Building new long-term care homes and redeveloping existing older homes to modern standards is part of the Government of Ontario’s [Long-Term Care Modernization Plan \[u21120259.ct.sendgrid.net\]](#).
- The Ontario government is making a historic \$2.68 billion investment in long-term care development. That includes a [\\$933 million investment \[u21120259.ct.sendgrid.net\]](#) in 80 new long-term care projects in March 2021. This will lead to thousands of new and upgraded long-term care beds across the province.
- Ontario now has 20,161 new and 15,918 redevelopment beds in the development pipeline.
- As of February 2021, more than 40,000 people were on the waitlist to access a long-term care bed in Ontario. The average wait time is 147 days for residents currently living in community settings.

Additional Resources

Visit Ontario's [website \[u21120259.ct.sendgrid.net\]](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.

[Emergency information and orders \[u21120259.ct.sendgrid.net\]](#)

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

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