



Board member Bonnie St. George (at podium) from the Central East LHIN announced overall increased health care funding for Northumberland and the access centre funding for the Central East Region during a session during which key figures spoke in Port Hope on Friday morning. They were (front, from left) Northumberland County Warden Mark Walas, Northumberland-Quinte West MPP Lou Rinaldi, VON representative Lori Cooper and Northumberland Hills Hospital CEO Linda Davis. VALERIE MACDONALD/Northumberland Today

NORTHUMBERLAND - An increase of \$900,000-plus in provincial funding to Northumberland Hills Hospital plus about \$600,000 in emergency department pay-for-results funding takes it out of the red for this year, the hospital's CEO Linda Davis said following the announcements Friday morning in Port Hope.

However, due to overcapacity in various hospital departments, it's too early to say about next year, she added.

The hospital also received \$35,436 to improve capacity.

Davis was responding to a host of funding announcements by Northumberland-Quinte West MPP Lou Rinaldi delivered by the Central East LHIN at the Port Hope Community Health Centre earmarked for Northumberland County hospitals and health care services which help strengthen the system "beyond the hospital walls," Davis said.

Of the \$2,626,515 handed out by the Central East LHIN for this area, Rinaldi spoke about the money to the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) for assisted living for high risk seniors (\$43,358) and for adult day programs (\$62,760). VON spokesperson Lori Cooper said the money would take 15 seniors off the wait list for day programs and six for assisted living.

The Port Hope Community Health Centre was given \$120,300 for recruitment and retention of staff plus \$38,521 for improved patient access; Extendicare in Port Hope got \$49,881; and Northumberland County's Golden Plough Lodge received \$79,984 for extra nursing.

Three other organizations received capacity building funds: Alderville First Nation (\$765); Branch 133, Legion Village in Cobourg (\$11,547); and The Canadian Red Cross (\$1,850).

Campbellford Memorial Hospital received \$136,900 more in based funding, \$125,000 for its emergency department performance, and \$17,377 for capacity building.

Across the entire Central East region, that area's Community Care Access Centre is to get an additional \$15,728,167, Rinaldi said, adding that his own 92-year-old mother-in-law is able to remain in her own home with help from this agency.

Funding for a new Palliative Care Community Team was also included in Friday's announcement, with Community Care Northumberland receiving \$350,000. The Palliative Care Community Team is intended to enhance existing palliative expertise through a collaborative model that focuses on opportunities to create a broader, comprehensive, seamless service model, notes a press release. "This integrated model will improve accessibility for Northumberland County residents to 24/7 quality palliative care through a variety of program services and supports," it also states.

*[vmacdonald@postmedia.com](mailto:vmacdonald@postmedia.com)*

*[Twitter.com/NT\\_vmacdonald](https://twitter.com/NT_vmacdonald)*