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To: [All Exchange Mailboxes](#); [PROFSTAFF](#)
Subject: Funding announced for Emergency Department redevelopment
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Today, the Ministry of Health announced over \$15 million to redevelop part of our Emergency Department. This is great news! The redevelopment will expand emergency services, including emergency mental health and addictions services, to improve access to high-quality care for patients and families in Guelph, Wellington and surrounding communities. Our ED was built 22 years ago to see 45,000 patients a year. Now, that number has been over 60,000 for several years and the pressures on our undersized ED are expected to continue to grow as Guelph is one of the fastest growing cities in the province.

There has been a lot of work behind the scenes to move this project forward and we are now starting the final design phase. After that, detailed drawings and construction documents are created which then go to tender to select a contractor. This planning work will require additional Ministry approvals and is expected to take over a year to complete. If everything goes according to plan, we expect construction to start as early as mid to late 2023.

The approved construction project includes two phases, the first involves relocation and expansion of our Emergency Mental Health Short Stay Assessment Unit (SSAU). It will grow from four to eight rooms to help address the increasing number of patients requiring emergency care for mental health and addictions. The SSAU area will be joined with Emergency Mental Health and Addictions Follow-up services. These services are designed to provide continuity in care following an Emergency visit. The new space will allow patients to benefit from both one-to-one and group supports.

The SSAU's new location will be on Level One in space currently occupied by The Foundation, auditorium and offices for IPAC, Lab and Volunteer Services. Plans to relocate these offices are underway and more information will be provided as it becomes available.

The second phase of this ED redevelopment project sees improvements in the ED with a new and expanded triage, registration and waiting room area. In addition, we will be building a larger ambulance garage, providing new space for patients who are waiting on ambulance stretchers, EMS supply storage and admin areas. Once all of these renovations are complete, we will remove the trailer from the Emergency Department.

There are many moving pieces to coordinate as we plan for this construction project, and the first user group meeting is scheduled for this Friday. A special thank you to all those involved in the planning so far, and for those who will be involved going forward. This is an exciting project for our Hospital as it will allow us to improve and increase our space to address several space challenges within our Emergency Department and Emergency Mental Health and Addictions program.

Sincerely

Gavin

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