



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Brant Community Healthcare System Receives Planning Approval to #BuildABetterBCHS

Brantford, ON – During a visit to Brantford on Wednesday, the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and Brantford—Brant MPP Will Bouma announced that Brant Community Healthcare System (BCHS) has been granted permission to move to Stage 1 for the planning of a new hospital in Brantford.

“We are thrilled to have received this permission to begin earnestly planning our new facilities,” says Paul Emerson, Chair of the Board of Directors. “Our sincere thanks go to Premier Ford and Minister of Health Christine Elliott for granting us the opportunity to move forward and the voice of MPP Will Bouma who was a relentless advocate for this approval at Queen’s Park.”

“I am so excited that the advocacy of the entire community has been heard by our government!” said Brantford-Brant MPP Will Bouma. “I have been working on the hospital redevelopment since day one but having had the amazing support of the Chiefs, Mayors and their respective Councils, the Hospital Board and Chair and especially the incredible work of Dr. David McNeil and his entire team is why we are standing here today”.

“After two years of waiting, we are eager to develop plans for a facility that reflects the exceptional work that happens at BCBS every day,” adds Dr. David McNeil, President and CEO. “The Mission of Brant Community Healthcare system is to work together to improve the health of our community. It is through the efforts of our Master Planning Steering Committee, Brantford Brant County Councils, Six Nations and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Councils combined with the voice of the community that we have achieved this announcement. A new hospital is necessary and this is the first step and critical step in our journey.”

BCBS has been in the pre-capital stage of this process since February 2020 and recently launched a #BuildABetterBCBS campaign to advocate for more modern healthcare facilities in the community. The approval to move into stage 1 comes with \$2.5 million in funding.

BCBS thanks our staff, medical staff, volunteers, and patients, partners in health and all levels of government, and our larger community for their support in this important issue. We look forward to sharing plans for the redeveloped hospital in the near future.

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