

# PERTH AND SMITHS FALLS DISTRICT HOSPITAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Local hospital re-development gets green light

**SMITHS FALLS, ON** – The Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital has been granted approval to re-develop its aging Smiths Falls site.

In an announcement made today, The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care confirmed The Government of Ontario has given the green light to the hospital to tender its anxiously awaited re-development project.

“The next step in our hospital’s bright future has been assured,” said Todd Stepanuik, President and CEO. “Residents of Smiths Falls and area, our staff, physicians and volunteers can now look forward to the 21st century health care facility they deserve. The impact the re-development and new equipment will have on our ability to both retain and recruit top calibre staff and physicians will be significant.”

“This was the last provincial hurdle for us to clear,” said Brandi Machan, Board Chair. “I am thrilled! This milestone in the construction of the Smiths Falls site is tremendous news for people living in and around the area. We have planned long and worked hard to prepare for this redevelopment.”

The re-development project at the Smiths Falls site includes the demolition of the 1904 wing, extensive renovations throughout the remainder of the hospital building and the construction of a new multi-level wing on the existing site.

Stepanuik stated that the Hospital pre-qualified companies earlier this year. Now that the approval to go to tender has been achieved, final approval to tender will allow all pre-qualified construction companies to submit their tender/bid in order to be considered as the contractor for the re-development project. It is expected that the tendering process will take four weeks. Once a review has been carried out, a recommendation will be formulated by the Hospital to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care regarding the preferred contractor.

“Today’s announcement is the result of the combined efforts of many people,” said Mrs. Machan. “I admire the dedication and hard work shown by all those involved in this complex planning process. We are grateful to the Premier and to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care for their leadership and for their support in making our dream a reality.”

Construction is set to begin in summer 2008 with completion expected in fall of 2010.

This is the first major expansion in 39 years. The Smiths Falls Hospital site was built in 1904, and then expanded in 1914, 1952, 1955 and 1969. It currently provides 44 acute care beds and offers 24 hour emergency service and a variety of clinical services.

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