

To the immediate attention of the Clerk and Council December 20, 2005 – Alert 05/095

MINISTRY ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR LAND AMBULANCE AND LONG-TERM CARE EQUIPMENT

Issue: On December 19, 2005 the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced \$83.5 million in funding for diagnostic and medical equipment. Some of this funding is allocated for land ambulance and long-term care facility equipment.

Background:

The announcement includes:

- \$12 million to replace ambulances and equipment
- \$7.2 million for wound care, pain management and safety equipment in long-term care homes
- \$29 million for the purchase of mechanical patient/resident bed lifts for hospitals and long-term care homes
- \$20.9 million for equipment in hospital laboratories
- \$6.9 million to replace old CT scanners with new more, efficient technology
- \$6.3 million for telemedicine and teleradiology equipment in hospitals. This will help more patients to have their conditions diagnosed, monitored, and treated closer to home
- \$1.0 million for Community Health Centres for exam tables, electrocardiograms, defibrillators and ultrasound machines that will improve patient care by upgrading and enhancing existing medical diagnosis and treatment equipment
- \$200,000 to upgrade diagnostic and medical equipment in Aboriginal Health Access Centres.

Allocation formulas have been determined partially based on existing grant formulas, as well as by previously submitted requests for funding for new equipment. Municipalities will be sent letters shortly outlining next steps from the Ministry.

Analysis and AMO next steps:

Any amount of funding to assist municipal governments to offset equipment costs for land ambulance and long-term care facilities is always welcome. The funding envelope however, does not help address many of the challenges still facing municipalities in delivering these critical services. AMO will continue to advocate that the Ministry address the funding shortfalls for long-term care facilities and that it pay its fair share of the 50-50 land ambulance funding formula.

This information is available in the Policy Issues section of the AMO website at www.amo.on.ca

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