



News Release/ Communiqué

Office of the
Premier

Cabinet du
Premier ministre

For Immediate Release
March 4, 2006

STRENGTHENING OTTAWA HEART INSTITUTE, STRENGTHENING OUR PEOPLE

New Lab Will Help Save Lives And Pioneer New Treatments

OTTAWA — A new laboratory at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute will help improve heart treatment and diagnoses for thousands of people in Ottawa, said Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty.

"This new lab will mean better, more effective diagnosis and treatment for heart ailments, help reduce wait times and improve access to quality health care for the people of Ottawa," Premier McGuinty said. "It's another sign of the progress we're making, together, on our plan to strengthen our province by strengthening the health of our people."

The institute's electrophysiology laboratory — which was the first of its kind in Canada — diagnoses and treats heart failure and rhythm disturbances. Researchers at the institute have developed new procedures to treat heart arrhythmia. Last year, the government provided \$1.7 million to upgrade and relocate the laboratory to reduce wait times for this procedure to less than eight months from 15 months.

The government provides \$89 million in annual funding to the University of Ottawa Heart Institute, which serves more than 76,000 outpatients and 6,000 inpatients each year.

"We understand that Ontario's greatest asset is our people — and their greatest asset is their health," said Premier McGuinty. "Today's initiative is part of our plan to help keep Ontarians healthy by reducing wait times and providing better access to doctors and nurses."

- 30 -

Disponible en français

For more information:
Premier's Media Office
416-314-8975