

Halton may benefit from a provincial initiative designed to bring home patients currently being treated for serious head injuries in the United States. There are about 50 such Ontario residents currently in American facilities, said Dr. Graham Pollett, Halton's medical officer of health, in a report to Monday's health and social services committee. The provincial government has approved a pilot project to specifically repatriate 10

patients into a program run out of Chedoke-McMaster Hospital. The Hamilton hospital houses this area's brain injury rehabilitation unit. A variety of community resources, such as Home Care, are utilized in the rehabilitation process. If a Halton patient did become involved, said Dr. Pollett, the Province would cover the cost through additional funds to Halton's Home Care Program.

Health news

Escalating welfare costs
Escalating welfare costs have Ontario's regional municipalities requesting the Province assume complete funding responsibility by 1992. Otherwise, said Halton Region Chairman Peter Pomeroy in a letter sent to Queen's Park last month, the financial fallout to municipalities "may very well trigger the

need for unprecedented action." Pomeroy penned the letter on behalf of Ontario's regional chairmen, an umbrella group he currently chairs. It's conceivable, he stated, that some municipalities may have to send out a supplementary year end tax bill, something he termed "virtually unprecedented in Ontario." For other municipalities, he said tax increases in the upcoming budget of 15-30 per cent "are distinct possibilities."

Pomeroy said the municipalities represented in the group (including Halton, Peel, Sudbury, Niagara, Metro Toronto, Ottawa-Carleton, Durham, York, Haldimand-Norfolk, Muskoka, Hamilton Wentworth, Waterloo and Oxford County) have, on average, seen their welfare bill rise 50 per cent this year. In some cases, he said the increase is more than 100 per cent.

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