



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty fields questions from York-Region Newspaper Group reporters Thursday during a visit to the office and a discussion with staff regarding health care and growth.

Wait times will go down: McGuinty

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hip and knee replacements and MRI exams. Wait times for knee replacements have gone down 19 per cent, while hip replacements and cataract surgeries have both fallen by about 10 per cent, he said.

While the median wait for cancer surgeries has dropped by about 8 per cent by provincial standards, they have risen at Southlake and Markham Stouffville hospitals.

"Almost all cancer surgeries have been completed within our wait time target of 84 days," he said. He admitted that might be cold comfort to cancer

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patients and their families waiting for those operations and admitted the province had more work on its hands to reduce those times.

But he urged York residents to focus on the long-term trend, which, he said, would see wait times continue to drop.

As for funding for a hospital in

Vaughan — the only city of its size in Canada without its own hospital — Mr. McGuinty wasn't making any promises.

"We'll wait and see what happens in terms of ongoing pressures," he said.

"(The health policy) not based on short-term politics, but the interests of meeting the long-term health needs of Ontario," he said.

The province has set up a website listing the wait times.

People can log on and check how long they will likely wait before they can receive various medical procedures at hospitals in their communities.

To check wait times in your community, go to www.health.gov.on.ca

For more on the premier's interview with the York Region Newspaper Group, including an interactive story, go to yorkregion.com

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INFORMATION SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26
3 - 4 p.m. OR 7 - 8 p.m.

President's Boardroom (Room C2-21)
Progress Campus, Centennial College

941 Progress Ave., Scarborough (South of Hwy. 401, east off Markham Rd.)

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