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**GEORGE SMITHERMAN:** Health Minister was also in Vaughan to announce new hospital.

# Tory MPP questions announcement

From page 1

Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees found the timing and amount questionable.

"The election is 160 days away," he said.

"Where's Mr. Smitherman been? There are still too many examples of people waiting in emergency rooms or surgeries being cancelled. There are far too many (wait time) occurrences for a government that has slapped a health care tax on the back of every Ontarian. They're taking in \$2.5 billion and we're getting less

service for more taxes. (The announcement) is a pittance of their skimming. It's offensive."

*"The election is 160 days away. Where's Mr. Smitherman been?"*

Ontario is also working to reduce wait times for pediatric surgeries, Markham MPP Michael Chan said.

"We are providing patients with better access to the care they need and delivering faster

results for a healthier Ontario," Mr. Chan said.

In the three years since the wait time strategy was launched, the government has invested \$895 million.

Cataract surgery wait times have been reduced by 41 per cent, cancer surgery by 16 per cent, angiography by half and angioplasty by 39 per cent, Mr. Smitherman said.

Hip and knee replacement waits were reduced by 27 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively.

MRI and CT scan wait times were trimmed by 13 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively.

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