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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Dwight Duncan, Minister of Energy Scheduled to Visit Four Counties

Maria Van Bommel, MPP, Lambton-Kent-Middlesex, will be escorting Dwight Duncan, Minister of Energy, representing Dalton McGuinty, on a tour of Four Counties Health Services (FCHS) on September 20, 2007, at 1:45 p.m. Ms. Van Bommel will be highlighting a number of areas of interest for the Minister including: Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) in the Diagnostic Imaging Department, the Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) Diabetes Education Program and Point of Care Testing (POCT) recently introduced to provide laboratory testing.

The Diagnostic Imaging Department uses PACS to electronically send x-ray and ultrasound images to be read and interpreted by a Radiologist off site. Four Counties is the smallest hospital in the world connected by this technology to a Tertiary Centre in order to provide a continuum of care to the patients it serves.

The Middlesex Hospital Alliance Diabetic Education Program, Four Counties Site, has recently partnered with First Nations through the Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (SOADI) to expand the educational opportunities available to assist individuals in managing their Diabetes.

Point of Care Testing (POCT) has been implemented at Four Counties in order to ensure quick results for laboratory tests. Nursing staff have been trained to use this technology which features hand held diagnostic equipment used at the bedside. Four Counties is the pilot project site for implementation of POCT for the Thames Valley Hospital Planning Partnership.

The Minister will also have the opportunity to meet Dr. Chris Hull, the latest addition to the FCHS Medical Staff. Dr. Hull has assumed the practice of Dr. Maurice Sanders one of the physicians who recently retired from the Four Counties Medical Clinic.