

For Immediate Release

Thursday, April 1, 2021

Retired General Rick Hillier visits Halton Healthcare

Retired General Rick Hillier, Chair of the Ontario Government's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force, stopped by Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH) on March 24 to tour the COVID-19 Vaccination Centre and Internal Field Hospital.

"We were delighted to welcome retired General Hillier in one of his last official visits to vaccine centres across the province before he stepped down from his post," said Denise Hardenne, President & CEO, Halton Healthcare. "While he was at OTMH we took the opportunity to also show the general our unique internal field hospital which has played such a critical role in our pandemic response."

Halton Healthcare has supported the provincial pandemic response with additional capacity created by internal field hospitals at its hospitals in Milton and Oakville. To-date, Halton Healthcare has accepted more than 230 patient transfers from other facilities.

The Vaccination Centre at OTMH has been operational since December 2020 and is currently administering more than 1,000 doses a day.

"We feel very privileged and proud to be able to provide vaccinations to so many people who live or work in our communities," continued Hardenne. "More than 44,000 doses have been administered at the OTMH centre to date."

During his visit, the retired general expressed his sincerest gratitude for the efforts put forth by everyone at Halton Healthcare to support the provincial response to COVID-19.

In a short inspirational video message directed to Halton Healthcare staff, physicians and volunteers, he said, "the role that you play during the battle against COVID-19 is the defining moment of your life and will impact hundreds and thousands of people and if you look up the word hero in the dictionary you will find your picture right next to it."

“We are lucky to have an incredible team of staff and physicians across our organization who have gone above and beyond in our continued response to this pandemic. We extend a special thank you to retired General Rick Hillier for his ongoing support and dedication and wish him well on his next mission,” concluded Hardenne.

Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQQOtiRmtQ8>

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