

SITE CHOSEN FOR QUINTE CONSOLIDATED COURTHOUSE*McGuinty Government Improving Access To Justice***NEWS**

February 5, 2009

The new Quinte consolidated courthouse will be located in Belleville on a parcel of land in the downtown core at 194 Coleman Street, near City Hall.

The new facility will improve access to justice for the County of Hastings by increasing the number of available courtrooms, providing better security and easier access for people with disabilities. Once under construction, the project will also create new jobs to spur economic development in Belleville and the surrounding area.

The Ontario Realty Corporation, the provincial government's real estate service provider, will begin an environmental assessment shortly.

QUOTES

"Not only will this project bring a modernized courthouse to eastern Ontario, it is also one of many examples of lasting investments we are making in the area," said George Smitherman, Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy & Infrastructure. "Through these investments we are furnishing the building blocks for the future."

"The County of Hastings will have greater access to justice through a new courthouse designed with Ontarians in mind – with secure, accessible justice services consolidated in one location to maximize the use of public funds and meet community needs for the next 25 years," said Attorney General Chris Bentley.

"This infrastructure investment will provide a modern, effective and accessible justice system for the area residents," said Leona Dombrowsky, MPP for Prince Edward-Hastings.

QUICK FACTS

- In addition to the new courthouse, the justice needs of the region will also continue to be served by the satellite court in Bancroft.
- The Ontario Realty Corporation provides real estate services to the Ontario government and manages one of the largest real estate portfolios in Canada, consisting of approximately 6,000 buildings and structures and over 80,000 acres of land across the province.

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