

Technology a cure for health system, Tory says

Conservative leader promises \$540 million, maintains electronic records will reduce errors

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HAMILTON - Conservative leader John Tory yesterday restated his commitment to improving health care by promising an additional \$540-million investment over four years for technology, including electronic patient records.

Mr. Tory made the announcement after touring a room stacked with patient files at the St. Joseph's hospital urology clinic. "It doesn't take much of a whiz to understand that (Dalton) McGuinty has been piddling away millions of tax dollars, and he has clearly been caught with his pants down on this one," Mr. Tory said.

The Conservatives argue the technology will reduce medical errors by allowing health records to follow patients through the health system, giving doctors more immediate access to their prescription records and medical histories.

Mr. Tory alleged that the McGuinty Liberals broke another promise by spending \$458 million on electronic health records, but producing few results.

"Right now, more than 300 people are working at the government agency that oversees electronic health infrastructure, 101 of them making more than \$101,000 a year," Mr. Tory said. "And, yet, where is the progress for this investment?"

Despite yesterday's announcement, the issue of funding for faith-based schools continued to plague the Conservative leader.

A new SES Research poll suggests one in two Ontarians believes funding faith-based schools will lead to segregation. Only one in four of those polled supported Mr. Tory's view on the controversial issue. However, the Conservative leader insists he will not change his position.

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