



NEWS RELEASE

Community Opportunity to Voice Support for New Vaughan Hospital and Announcement of Proposed Hospital Site

Vaughan – April 23rd, 2009 – The Vaughan Health Campus of Care and the Vaughan Health Care Foundation welcome the opportunity for the public to show its support for the new Vaughan hospital at a special Budget Committee meeting of Vaughan City Council on April 27th, 2009.

“We’re confident that the residents of Vaughan and our local Councillors are fully supportive of this very important initiative,” said Michael DeGasperis, Chair of the Vaughan Health Campus of Care and the Vaughan Health Care Foundation. “This hospital is a major investment in Vaughan’s future. It will not only improve access to health care, but also attract some of the finest talent and resources in the medical field to Vaughan.”

The Vaughan Health Campus of Care is coming before Council with a funding request to support the acquisition of a site and hospital development for Vaughan’s Future Hospital. A site is required at this time in order to support the next stage of planning – Master Plan.

“The Vaughan Health Campus of Care is pleased to announce that we have entered into a conditional agreement that contemplates the acquisition of a site located on the north side of Major Mackenzie Drive, between Highway 400 and Jane St.” DeGasperis said, “After decades of discussion, and tremendous effort on the part of our dedicated volunteers, Vaughan’s much needed future Hospital is physically beginning to take shape and finally coming to fruition.”

After a lengthy and comprehensive site selection process involving 28 potential locations for the hospital site, the Vaughan Health Campus of Care and the Foundation are in the final phase of securing the top-rated site for hospital development. Former Supreme Court of Canada Justice Frank Iacobucci reviewed the Report for the objectivity of the site selection process.

Vaughan is the largest city in Canada without a hospital. Last June, Vaughan City Council took a leadership role in recognizing the need for a new hospital by approving in principle a significant financial contribution for site acquisition and hospital development. Council will host a special Budget Committee meeting on April 27th, to receive input on this important investment of local community infrastructure, and the local community share requirement as mandated by the Provincial Government.

A report completed last year, *Service Needs Assessment for the Identification of Vaughan Hospital Services*, commissioned by the Central Local Health Integration Network, the

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Foundation (produced by Deloitte Consulting) identified that an undisputable need exists for a hospital in Vaughan to provide between 247-278 beds by 2013, growing to 401-464 beds by 2030.

The Government of Ontario provides hospital capital funding support for 90% of construction costs. As is the case in other cities, the local community is entirely responsible for purchasing land, as well as funding 100% of the furniture, fixtures and equipment costs. The next stage of the development process, called the Master Plan, will better define the full cost of development.

“We look forward to continued strong community and Council support on April 27th, 2009 and beyond.” said DeGasperi. The budget meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Vaughan Civic Centre.

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About the Vaughan Health Campus of Care:

The Vaughan Health Campus of Care is a not-for-profit organization established to ensure that new health services in the Vaughan community are co-ordinated, aimed at a common vision of integration, innovation and excellence in health services delivery and patient care. Responsible for the strategic establishment and coordination of health care services to serve the needs of the Vaughan community, the Vaughan Health Campus of Care is working with Government to secure approvals for additional health services, including a hospital, to support its vision.

About the Vaughan Health Care Foundation:

In January 2003, a task force of community and civic leaders was struck to assess how best to bring additional health care resources to the community of Vaughan. This Task Force then formed The Vaughan Health Care Foundation, a volunteer-driven charity, in early 2004. Since its inception, the Foundation has been working tirelessly towards its mission – to engage the community and to raise funds to support the establishment of health care facilities and services, including a hospital, for the City of Vaughan.