

York Central Hospital and the Vaughan Health Campus of Care Collaborate to Bring Expanded Hospital Services to Southwest York Region

Southwest York Region – October 7, 2009 - Today, the Boards of York Central Hospital (YCH) and Vaughan Health Campus of Care (VHCC) are pleased to announce that they have taken a significant step forward in their quest to bring much needed additional hospital facilities and services to meet the healthcare needs of the people of Southwest York Region.

“Patients who are in need of hospital services don’t make their choices based on municipal boundaries; they simply seek and deserve high quality care as close to home as possible. That is why YCH and VHCC have agreed to work together, along with elected officials, community leaders and health service partners to ensure that residents of Southwest York Region are well served by their local health care system,” says Warren Collier, Chair of York Central Hospital’s Board of Trustees.

For almost 46 years York Central Hospital has served the health care needs of people living in Southwest York Region. Today, the hospital provides Emergency, Inpatient, Ambulatory, Continuing and Long-Term Care services to nearly half-a-million residents living in Richmond Hill, Vaughan, King, Markham, Aurora and beyond.

Over the past several years, the Vaughan Health Campus of Care has successfully mobilized the Vaughan community and significantly enhanced patients’ access to health services. At the same time, York Central Hospital has celebrated the completion of Phase One of a major expansion to key clinical areas including Emergency, Intensive Care, Dialysis, Medical Imaging, Family Birthing and Mental Health Services.

“In keeping with our mandate, Central LHIN is pleased when health service providers and community stakeholders look for new ways to work together to enhance and improve care and service delivery in our LHIN,” says Kim Baker, Chief Executive Officer of Central LHIN. “We know there is a need and tremendous support for expanded health services in the Vaughan area, and we recognize this partnership will play a positive role in building that capacity and meeting local needs.”

“The Vaughan Health Campus of Care has done a remarkable job of securing a new health care campus in the city. This new association with York Central Hospital creates the perfect partnership to ensure a hospital in Vaughan that sets the standard for healthcare across the province and the country,” says Greg Sorbara, MPP for Vaughan-King-Aurora.

In an effort to move the collaboration forward quickly, the Board of York Central Hospital will restructure its board to provide a broader and more geographically representative sharing of responsibility which will include members from the VHCC and the Vaughan community. The restructured board will guide the planning and development of new hospital services, including a new hospital facility in Vaughan and the further revitalization of the York Central Hospital location in the immediate future.

“I’m very pleased to see these two organizations working together. This partnership will serve the best interests of local residents. It is a significant project which will transform healthcare in Southwest York Region,” says Reza Moridi, MPP for Richmond Hill.

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This partnership represents a significant milestone for both organizations and underlines their commitment to leverage resources to improve and expand services to patients. It is a very positive step forward in meeting the immediate and future health needs of the region's rapidly growing community and the long term vision of providing residents with the finest health services in Canada.

"Building a new hospital and expanding hospital services in the Region is extremely complex, expensive and time-consuming," says Michael DeGasperis, Board Chair of the Vaughan Health Campus of Care. "The collective efforts of YCH and VHCC will ensure a strong, united partnership that will lead to the necessary resources and support from the provincial government to keep pace with the health care needs of the community; an area where demand for health services is the fastest growing in the country. We are committed to working together as we embark on our plans for a hospital and expanded health services for our residents."

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About York Central Hospital

www.yorkcentral.on.ca - Opened in 1963, York Central Hospital is a large community hospital (472 beds) located in Richmond Hill providing Emergency, Inpatient, Ambulatory, Continuing and Long-Term Care services to a community of over 450,000 residents in Southwest York Region. This summer the hospital completed Phase One of its major expansion and renovation project significantly expanding its treatment facilities and inpatient beds. In addition to the services it provides locally, York Central Hospital is the District Stroke Centre for York Region and is home to a number of regional services including: the York Region Chronic Kidney Disease Program, York Region Domestic Assault and Sexual Assault Care Centre, and the York/Simcoe Behaviour Management and Autism Programs.

About the Vaughan Health Campus of Care:

www.vaughanhealthcare.com - The Vaughan Health Campus of Care is a not-for-profit organization established to ensure that new health services in the Vaughan community are coordinated, 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.