



NEWS RELEASE

Foundation Applauds Unanimous Legislature Support for New Vaughan Hospital *Ontario MPPs Recognize Urgent Need for a Hospital in Vaughan*

VAUGHAN – June 11, 2007 – On Thursday, May 31st, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario unanimously passed a resolution to support efforts of the Vaughan Health Care Foundation, the municipality of Vaughan and the Central Local Health Integration Network as they work towards creating a hospital in the City of Vaughan.

"I am please to see that Politicians at Queen's Park have come out in support of what families in our community have needed for some time." said Michael DeGasperis, Acting Chair and Vice President of the Vaughan Health Care Foundation. "The Foundation has successfully demonstrated the need for a hospital for Vaughan, and now we can concentrate our efforts to ensure that the hospital is developed as quickly as possible."

The resolution, introduced by Thornhill MPP Mario G. Racco, received unanimous support from all MPPs, across party lines. During debate, MPPs reiterated the health care needs presented by a rapidly growing population, and how services provided in existing hospitals is already under intense pressure. Mr. Racco also underscored that the new Vaughan hospital must be able to serve the Vaughan community by reducing wait times for key procedures, and by providing better access to care well into the future.

"The need for a new hospital crosses all party lines, and we are very pleased that all MPPs support our efforts," said Angelo Baldassarra, President of the Foundation. "This show of confidence is a strong signal that the Foundation is on the right track."

In April 2007, the Government of Ontario approved the Vaughan Health Care Foundation and the Central Local Health Integration Network, to commence planning for a new hospital for Vaughan. These efforts augment the existing work of the Foundation, to launch a new Vaughan Community Health Centre. Scheduled to open in early 2008 and located on the east side of Jane Street, between Rutherford Rd. and Major Mackenzie Dr., the Vaughan CHC will provide much needed primary health care services including more physicians and nurse practitioners, and specialty areas such as chiropody, physiotherapy and diabetes education. It will respond to major areas of under-service including seniors, youth and mental health.

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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 raise funds and obtain the necessary approvals from government to establish and support health care facilities and services, including a new hospital for the City of Vaughan.

More information on the Foundation and its work can be found at www.vaughanhealthcare.com.

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