



For Immediate Release:
June 10, 2009

Media Release

Ontario Health and Long-Term Care Minister Helps York Central Hospital Celebrate Grand Opening of Phase One of its Redevelopment Project!

RICHMOND HILL, ON. – Earlier today, York Central Hospital celebrated the official grand opening of Phase One of its \$93.2 million Redevelopment Project. This culmination of years of planning and construction has added 148,230 sq. ft. of additional space resulting in shorter waiting times and increased access to care for our community.

York Central Hospital is a large 472-bed community hospital just north of Toronto that serves a rapidly growing community of over 400,000 residents in southwest York Region including the towns and villages of Richmond Hill, Thornhill, Vaughan, King and Aurora.

“Today we are here celebrating the completion of Phase One of this project, on time and on-budget,” said Jo-anne Marr, the hospital’s Acting President and CEO. “We serve one of Canada’s fastest growing communities including a large aging population as well as many new families moving into the area each year. This creates great demand for our services. Our thanks to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for their support this much needed expansion and renovation project.”

“This project will go a long way toward meeting the current and future health needs of this community,” said David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. “This redevelopment project will not only increase access to vital health care services, but also will help to reduce wait times.”

“This grand opening is a significant milestone for Richmond Hill. The Phase 1 redevelopment and renovation project represents a major expansion and upgrading of York Central Hospital’s facilities” said Reza Moridi, MPP Richmond Hill. “These numerous improvements will place York Central Hospital on the forefront of community care. This incredible achievement would not have been possible without the leadership and dedication of the Board, the Foundation and management of the hospital. I offer my sincere thanks to them for their efforts.”

“Construction of this magnitude is no easy feat. It has meant inconvenience for our patients, their families and our staff, physicians and volunteers,” added Marr. “But look at what we have accomplished. Phase One has enabled us to reduce waiting times and significantly enhance the patient care experience by creating a state-of-the-art health care facility. Our increased capacity also means we can provide care for a significantly increased numbers of patients in greater comfort and privacy.”

History of Growing to Meet Community Needs – also see Phase One Backgrounder

York Central Hospital opened its doors in November of 1963 with a total capacity of 100 inpatient beds to serve the rapidly growing local community. Serving a community of approximately 400,000 people at that time, the new hospital's services included surgical services, inpatient medical/surgical units, birthing/maternity unit, x-ray and diagnostic services as well as Richmond Hill's first 24-hour Emergency Department.

Following the dramatic increase of new homes and businesses in southwest York Region in the ensuing years, the hospital experienced its first expansion with the addition of the Langstaff Wing was added in 1974. This expansion increased the range of services and the bed complement to 310 beds including expanded and enhanced diagnostic and laboratory services to support a significantly expanded Emergency Department capable of handling up to 25,000 patient visits.

In 2000, the Hospital opened its Centre for Continuing Care and Rehabilitation adding new Complex Continuing Care, Short and Long Term Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care services, bringing the hospital's bed complement to 426. The total number of citizens served by York Central Hospital was estimated at that time to be approximately 325,000 people.

Looking to the future

"Although still in the planning stages, the vision that is emerging for Phase Two of our Redevelopment is a bold direction that will help us create the next generation healthcare here in southern York Region," said David Bannister, Chair of the Hospital's Board of Trustees. "With a vision to be the finest community hospital in Canada, York Central Hospital sees a future where our hospital will act as a patient portal to all aspects of our health care system."

"Whether you enter our doors as a patient in our Emergency Department, for a surgery procedure or as an out-patient to one of our clinics you will be connected to a continuum of care that will go beyond what we as an individual institution can offer," he adds.

-30-

York Central Hospital (www.yorkcentral.on.ca) is a large, 472-bed full-service community hospital tracking to serve more than 75,000 patient visits annually to its Emergency Department, serving a population of over 400,000 in Southwest York Region and beyond. Located in one of Canada's fastest growing communities, the hospital is on a Capacity Building Journey that focuses on using the best available practices, the newest technologies and innovative models of service to provide superior patient care. For more information visit us at: www.yorkcentral.on.ca

Media Contact:

Stefanie Kreibe,
External Relations Officer, Public Affairs
York Central Hospital
Tel. (905) 883-1212 ext. 7484
skreibe@yorkcentral.on.ca