

**For immediate release:  
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## **York Central Hospital Board Approves Development of New Health Care Centre in Vaughan**

York Central Hospital's Board of Trustees recently approved a proposal for York Central Hospital to move forward in working with a local developer on the design and construction of a new Health Care Centre located at the northeast corner of Rutherford Road and Melville Avenue in Vaughan. This endorsement will help to create a second health care facility under the York Central Hospital banner in the Vaughan community.

“With approximately 10,000 new residents moving to Vaughan each year, there is clearly a need to think creatively to bring urgent care services closer to home in a timely and cost effective way,” commented York Central Hospital President and CEO Bruce Harber. “York Central Hospital and its partners could have a new Urgent/Ambulatory Care Centre up and running in as little as 18 months bringing urgently needed services at a more easily accessible location for Vaughan residents.”

Discussion and planning of the concept for this new Centre began approximately four years ago in June of 2003 to identify the necessary services to meet the health care needs of residents in Vaughan. Since that time the hospital has moved forward with Phase One of its major expansion and renovation project. This past fall, York Central Hospital also completed a major re-visioning of its future leading to renewed discussions on a new Health Care Centre for Vaughan. Recognizing the value of the delivery of health care services to the residents of Vaughan, Mayor Linda Jackson, a York Central Hospital board member, has been very supportive of the Central LHIN (Local Health Integration Network) and the proposed Health Care Centre.

Currently the Hospital provides a wide variety of services through its Jacob Keffer Site located at Rutherford Road and Jacob Keffer Parkway in Vaughan including: a Health and Wellness Centre offering Diabetes Education and Cardiac Rehabilitation, the Shaw Family Mental Health Clinic, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Care and Resource Centre, Childbirth Education, Sleep Lab and Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

### **New Health Care Services Currently Being Explored**

As one of Canada's fastest growing urban communities, all stakeholders – the Ministry, the Central LHIN and the community – agree that more services are needed in Vaughan, now and in the future. York Central Hospital is exploring a number of services that could be located at the proposed Health Care Centre. Services would be offered by a combination of providers including York Central Hospital, family physicians, other public and private health care partners and retailers.

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A wide range of services are being explored such as:

- An Urgent Care Centre for patients with non-life threatening conditions
- A 30-station Dialysis Unit
- Rehabilitation Services
- Diagnostic Services
- Specialty Clinics
- Chronic Disease Management for e.g. Stroke, Diabetes, Arthritis
- Day Surgery

### **New Centre to Bring Immediate Relief to Vaughan and Richmond Hill Residents**

Between 1996 and 2001, census figures showed a 37.3 percent population increase in Vaughan and a 29.8 percent in Richmond Hill. The proposed Health Care Centre could bring some immediate and much needed relief to the demands on York Central Hospital's Emergency Department while also creating a more conveniently accessible health care facility in Vaughan.

The proposed Vaughan Health Care Centre clearly meets the government's goals to provide timely and accessible care for all Ontarians. Over 30% of Vaughan's 220,000 residents requiring emergency or inpatient services use York Central Hospital. This is the highest proportion of Vaughan patients of the four hospital sites currently serving Vaughan residents.

### **Alignment with LHIN and LHIN IHSP (Integrated Health Services Plan)**

Both the Ministry and LHIN have expressed interest in building community services to reduce the burden on expensive hospital-based services and to optimize the use of health care resources. The services YCH is planning for its new Vaughan Health Care Centre are consistent with the LHIN vision and are aligned to LHIN priorities including chronic disease management, mental health services, reduced wait times, emergency services and neurological conditions such as stroke.

"As part of our next steps in moving this project forward, we will be seeking Ministry of Health and Long Term Care approval and funding to bring new health care services to Vaughan as quickly as possible," added Harber.

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