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Media Release

YORK CENTRAL HOSPITAL HOSTS FIRST ACCESSIBILITY DAY

RICHMOND HILL, ON – York Central Hospital is pleased to celebrate its first Accessibility Day as part of National Access Awareness Week. At York Central Hospital we are committed to enriching the health and well being of our diverse community.

Providing equitable care that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities is important to achieving person and family focused care. As part of the festivities, the Hospital was pleased to welcome Regional and Local Councillor Vito Spatafora, who is also Chair of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee.

“We are pleased to host our first Accessibility Day to call attention to the need for equality for all patients, families and all members of our healthcare team,” says the hospital’s President and CEO Altaf Stationwala. “Ensuring people of all abilities have access to our facility, is entrenched in our core values of accountability, collaboration, respect, safety and leadership. We are constantly upgrading our facility to ensure we are as accessible to our community as possible.”

As part of its barrier-free environment, the hospital has accessible washrooms, doors, hallways and entrances. The Hospital also has an Accessibility Committee comprised of staff from across the organization to look at ways to improve accessibility services to patients, staff and volunteers. The organization develops an annual accessibility plan, provides Accessibility Standards Training for all staff, conducts an Accessibility Audit where the Accessibility committee walks around hospital, identifies issues and makes recommendations and develops an action plan to address issues.

The hospital is pleased to announce the addition of a dedicated TTY phone line for the deaf, deafened and hard of hearing. A TTY is a device that is equipped with a keyboard and a small display screen that enables users to send typed messages by telephone. Many people who are deaf, oral deaf, deafened, hard of hearing or deafblind use TTYs to communicate with individuals. The hospital’s TTY number is: (905) 883-2123.

“The new dedicated TTY line enables those individuals who have difficulty using a regular telephone to connect with hospital and obtain the information they need in a format they can use,” adds Mieke Busman the Hospital’s Director of Quality, Risk Management & Patient Safety, and Chair of the Accessibility Committee.

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Background

National Access Awareness Week, observed from May 29 to June 4, brings people together to celebrate the work being done to make programs and services more accessible for people with disabilities.

More than 1.85 million Ontarians have a disability and this number is quickly rising as the population ages.