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Media Release

York Central Hospital Celebrates its Nurses During National Nursing Week

Richmond Hill, ON – York Central Hospital is pleased to celebrate its nurses and their contributions to our hospital during National Nursing Week. This important professional recognition week is a valuable time to recognize and pay tribute to the knowledge and skill of the 800 nurses who work at our hospital and the essential role they play in delivering expert and compassionate care to our patients.

National Nursing Week celebrates Canadian nurses and their commitment to patient care and the health care system as a whole. The event raises awareness of the numerous ways nurses work collaboratively with other health professionals to improve health care and advance the depth and breadth of the profession.

This year York Central Hospital is delighted to celebrate seven YCH nurses who have received national recognition for their commitment to outstanding patient care. Three nurses were nominated for *The Toronto Star's* Nightingale Award and four nurses were nominated in the *Hospital News'* Nursing Heroes contest. Tatiana Fogel, a nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, received an honourable mention in the Nursing Heroes contest for her unrelenting dedication to her patients. "We are proud of our amazing nurses who continue to go above and beyond the call of duty everyday," said Altaf Stationwala, President and CEO of York Central Hospital.

In addition to these achievements, the Canadian Nurses Association awarded YCH with an the 2011 Employer Recognition Award - Honourable Mention for demonstrating exemplary support for the Canadian Nurses Association Speciality Certification Program. "I am very pleased to see our wonderful nurses nominated by their peers and patients and recognized by both *The Toronto Star* and *The Hospital News*," said Jo-anne Marr, Vice President of Patient Services and Chief Nursing Executive. "These are wonderful achievements for our nurses."

Take your MPP to Work Day

York Central Hospital welcomed two area MPPs this week as part of the RNAO's Take Your MPP to Work Day program. The week began with a visit from Peter Shurman, MPP for Thornhill on Monday, May 9. Reza Moridi, MPP for Richmond Hill, will visit York Central on Wednesday, May 11 as part of the Ontario-wide program. York Central Hospital's nurses provided each MPP with a guided tour and hands-on demonstration of the specialty training and

skills of nurses in both the Emergency Department (ED) and the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Nurses led discussions with MPPs regarding the vital role nurses play in providing highly specialized care in the Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit to help each patient achieve the best possible outcome.

Week Long Celebration of Nursing Excellence

Our hospital is celebrating National Nursing Week with a full agenda of events and activities designed to celebrate, educate and express our sincere appreciation for the unique contributions of both the nursing profession and individual nurses. Some of the activities include:

- Take Your MPP to Work Day, A guided tour of our Intensive care Unit and Emergency Department with MPP Reza Moridi, Richmond Hill and MPP Peter Shurman, Thornhill
- Interprofessional Lunch and Learn Events
- Bursary Awards Ceremony
- A Celebration of Nursing at York Central Hospital Luncheon

History of National Nursing Week

In 1971, May 12 – Florence Nightingale’s birthday – was designated as International Nurses Day. In 1985, the Canadian Minister of Health proclaimed the second week of May as National Nurses Week, in recognition of the dedication and achievements of the nursing profession. May 12 is also recognized as Canada Health Day. In 1993, the name was changed to National Nursing Week in 1993 to highlight the profession’s accomplishments as a discipline.

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Backgrounder

About York Central Hospital

Opened in 1963, York Central Hospital is a large community hospital located in Richmond Hill providing Emergency, Inpatient, Ambulatory, Continuing and Long-Term Care services to a

community of over 500,000 residents in Southwest York Region. In 2009, the hospital received an expanded mandate from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to plan for the further development of the existing York Central Hospital site and the building of a new hospital in Vaughan. In addition to the services it currently provides to the community of Southwest York Region, 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.