

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **York Central Hospital Opens the Region's Most Advanced Neonatal Intensive Care Unit**

*New unit will increase capacity and provide state-of-the-art neonatal intensive care stations*

**Richmond Hill, ON:** Today, York Central Hospital will unveil its newly expanded, state-of-the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), which will be the most advanced NICU in York Region. The new unit was designed to include everything required for the care of premature and sick babies. Last year, the Hospital welcomed over 2,800 babies; on average, 13% or 364 of these infants required specialized care.

"York Central already had the professional expertise needed to provide the specialized care required by high-risk women and their babies. As of today, we now have the facilities to match this level of care. This new and expanded unit will enhance our ability to respond to the growing needs of Southwest York Region," said Altaf Stationwala, President and CEO, York Central Hospital.

The unit has increased from six to eight stations, with the capacity to grow and accommodate 12 stations. The care stations are more spacious with added privacy and are equipped with an isolette and physiological monitor, intravenous pumps, bedside computer documentation systems and phototherapy units. There is also direct access from the unit to the existing Neonatal Resuscitation Unit and the Caesarean Section Operating Rooms.

"With the incredible support of our generous donors, especially the Volunteer Association of York Central Hospital, we're able to proudly open the most advanced NICU in York Region," said Bill Leacy, President and CEO of York Central Hospital Foundation. "This state-of-the-art facility will allow our expert staff to provide safe, complete care for our hospital's tiniest patients."

The Volunteer Association of York Central Hospital donated \$1 million to help fund the project. Other major contributors include: Casino and Hold'em Poker Event 2009 and 2010; Proud Partners Golf Classic 2010; ZZEN Group of Companies Limited; Fieldgate Developments; TACC Construction Co. Ltd., in honour of Vincenzo Pulla's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday; the Great-West Life Assurance Company; J.P. Bickell Foundation; and The Schad Foundation.

"We definitely deal with some very ill babies but if you nurture them through, it's really one of the most gratifying things in the world. There is nothing better than to see the baby smile and the joy of the parents when things work out," said Dr. Gerald Friedman, Chief Paediatric Department and Co-Director, Woman and Child Program.

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## **Backgrounder**

### **About York Central Hospital**

Opened in 1963, York Central Hospital is a large community hospital (472 beds) 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 addition to the services it provides locally, 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.