

For Immediate Release:
April 14, 2011

Media Release

York Central Hospital Plays Pivotal Role in Government Declaring May 1st Doctors' Day

Richmond Hill, ON – York Central Hospital would like to congratulate the Ontario Government and Richmond Hill MPP Reza Moridi for unanimously declaring May 1st as Doctors' Day in Ontario. In 2009, York Central was the first hospital in Canada to observe Doctors' Day to honour its doctors. The hospital worked with MPP Moridi who was very supportive of formally recognizing the incredible work that doctors do.

"York Central Hospital is proud to have played a pivotal role along with Reza Moridi in bringing a province-wide recognition of doctors based on the success of our Doctors' Day celebrations here at our hospital over the past two years. To our knowledge, York Central Hospital is the first hospital in Canada to host this type of annual recognition event," says Arlene Webster, Director of Medical Affairs for York Central Hospital. "Our thanks and congratulations to MPP Moridi for bringing forward the successful private member's bill that has now resulted in the new May 1, Doctors' Day proclamation," she adds.

Based on the success of the Doctors' Day initiative at York Central Hospital, on April 7th, 2011, MPP Moridi introduced his motion to the Ontario Legislature to declare May 1st as Doctors' Day in Ontario. The date of May 1st was chosen because it is the birthday of the first female physician in Canada, Dr. Emily Stowe. There are no Canadian provincial jurisdictions which have legislation or proclamations of any type of Doctors' Appreciation Day.

"Doctors are an integral component of our healthcare system and every day, over 400,000 patients are treated by Ontario's physicians," said Reza Moridi, MPP Richmond Hill. "It was an honour to present my resolution to the Ontario Legislature and to receive all-party support for the formal declaration of May 1st as Doctors' Day," added MPP Moridi. "This is an opportunity for patients and the public to show their appreciation to the 26,000 practicing doctors in Ontario," commented Reza Moridi.

The first unofficial Doctors' Day was celebrated in North America on March 30, 1933. The idea came from a physician's wife who was part of the Alliance to the Barrow County Medical Society in Georgia. Inspired by the story of Dr. Crawford Long, who removed a neck tumour painlessly for a patient using anaesthesia for the first time, Doctors' Day was instituted on the anniversary of his accomplishment. In 1990, legislation was passed by the House and Senate to establish a National Doctors' Day in the United States on March 30.

York Central credentialed its first physicians on December 10, 1963. Since then its medical staff has grown from the original 48 members to 374 physicians who practice in over 30 specialties. Members of our medical staff range in age from 25 to 75 and over a quarter are female. In addition to their medical training, our physicians include three engineers, a former nurse and a graduate of the Second City Theatre School. Every day in our hospital and in the surrounding community, our doctors demonstrate leadership, share best practices and support others in the health care field with their specialized expertise and skill.

"We welcome the recognition of the personal and family sacrifices that our physicians make on a daily basis, and the role they play not only in providing quality health care but in constantly improving our

health care delivery system. We hope that our new provincially proclaimed Doctors' Day will serve as an opportunity to publicly acknowledge these accomplishments," says Dr. Larry Grossman, Chief of Staff for York Central Hospital.

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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 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.
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