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Media Release

Community Shares Valuable Insights on Planning of Future Hospital Services

RICHMOND HILL – Communities of Southwest York Region provided York Central Hospital with valuable feedback on future health care services during the hospital's community open houses which took place on September 27 and 28 in Richmond Hill and Vaughan. During open dialogue and through the hospital's community survey, participants shared their thoughts and ideas on health services and resources the hospital should consider as it plans to develop a major regional health system in Southwest York Region.

"The planning of our future health services and facilities will be centered on the health care needs of our community," says Tony Genco, Chair of York Central Hospital's Board of Directors. "Our community is a vital stakeholder; their ideas and input are vital to the success of our project."

Both open houses were very well attended and included great dialogue and passionate discussion about the future of health care in our community. Innovative approaches to delivering health care; specialized services; increase in health care programs and services such as emergency medicine, medical imaging, mental health and cancer; and transportation considerations to enable convenient access to health care services were among the many comments and suggestions the hospital's planning team received from participants.

One Hospital Corporation – Two Hospital Sites

York Central Hospital's development project envisions one hospital corporation with two hospital sites that will include further development of its existing hospital in Richmond Hill and the building a new hospital in Vaughan. Building on the success of other multi-site hospitals such as the University Health Network which oversees three downtown hospitals – Toronto General Hospital, Toronto Western Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital and William Osler Hospital which oversees multi-sites with its Brampton Civic Hospital site and Etobicoke General Hospital site, York Central Hospital's two sites will be 8 kilometres apart and will offer a wide range of services that would not otherwise be possible through a single site.

"Having two hospital administrations just 8 kilometres apart would not make economic sense," says Jo-anne Marr, Interim President and CEO. "By creating one hospital administration to oversee two sites we are able to build a high-quality, cost-efficient health care system to be

utilized by all communities in Southwest York Region.”

First Step to Increased Health Care Services

The collaboration agreement between York Central Hospital and the Vaughan Health Campus of Care in October of 2009 was the first step in bringing increased health care services to Southwest York Region. Within days of signing the agreement, York Central Hospital was awarded a \$7 million planning grant from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care which is enabling the hospital to develop a Stage One submission - the first-step in a mandatory five-step government mandated planning process. The hospital's Stage One submission will be submitted to the Ministry in April 2011.

“Our thanks to all of the participants for their enthusiasm and truly exceptional ideas and feedback on health care services they would like to see in their future facilities,” says Rosemarie Crisante, Director of Development. “The information gained will help the hospital create an innovative plan for future health services that maximizes the advantages of our two-site model to benefit our entire community.”

On-line Survey and Future Open Houses

The hospital encourages residents to continue to provide their feedback through the hospital's community survey which is easily accessed on the home page of the hospital's website at www.yorkcentral.on.ca. The hospital has also created a new Future Expansion Micro-site and E-newsletter to help community members stay informed of the latest news and information on the hospital's development project. The Micro-site and E-newsletter can also be accessed from the hospital's website.

York Central Hospital will be hosting more community open houses in the New Year to share with community members how their thoughts and ideas have been incorporated into the hospital's planning process and to again seek their input on future health care services in Southwest York Region.

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Backgrounder

About York Central Hospital

Opened in 1963, York Central Hospital is a large community hospital (506 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.