

For Immediate Release:  
March 14, 2011

## Media Release

### Strong Community Support for Two-Hospital Model

**Richmond Hill, ON** – Approximately 300 residents participated in community open houses recently held in Richmond Hill and Vaughan that provided residents an opportunity to learn about York Central Hospital’s vision to develop a major regional health system for Southwest York Region. The open houses mark another major milestone in the development project leading up to the hospital’s April Stage One submission to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

“We are delighted to be near the end of the first stage of our planning process, an achievement that could not be reached without the hard work and tremendous support from our elected officials, board trustees, community members and staff,” said Dina Palozzi, Chair, Board of Trustees, York Central Hospital. “The keen interest from local residents and elected officials who attended the open houses indicates strong community support for this project and the common goal we share to bring increased health services to our community.”

The hospital's vision is two full-service hospitals for Southwest York Region including further development of the existing York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill and building a new hospital in Vaughan. The two hospitals will be situated to serve the projected population growth of Southwest York Region. The integrated two-hospital model will provide a wide range of services not otherwise possible through a single hospital delivery system.

### Vision and Proposed Plans for the Major Regional Health System

The integrated regional health care system will help address key health care priorities in Southwest York Region by offering major core services such as emergency, intensive care units, surgical suites and clinical support services. Obstetrics and paediatrics, mental health, rehabilitation, complex and ambulatory care is also included in the complement of services offered. The proposed plans show that the major regional health system will be home to three regional programs: integrated stroke care, chronic kidney disease and a centre for seniors’ care.

The future facilities will bring a patient-centered health care system that incorporates the newest technologies, innovative models of care and evidence-based facility design to meet the needs of the community. Part of the proposed plans also includes using innovative designs to promote a healthy community. This involves creating walking trails and green spaces to link the hospital

facilities to the surrounding community, and maximizing natural light with the architectural design to take advantage of documented benefits of natural light in the therapeutic healing process.

Access to the hospitals through public transit infrastructure and adequate entry and exit routes to the hospitals are also part of the proposed plans for the future facilities. York Central Hospital's project vision: *Connecting you with tomorrow's health care* reflects what the hospital hopes to bring to communities of Southwest York Region.

"We greatly appreciated and benefited from the thoughtful questions and comments we received from participants on our proposed plans," said Altaf Stationwala, President and CEO, York Central Hospital. "We hope to move very quickly into Stage Two of the capital planning process and look forward to continuing to engage our community throughout the planning process. The hospital is excited about its future and the positive impact it will have on the health and well-being of our community."

Hospital Board Chair, Dina Palozzi also highlighted major objectives of the project including creating a new name and identity for the two-hospital health care system. In the coming months, the hospital will seek views and input from community members to help create a strong identity for the major regional health system.

### **Next Steps: On-line and Telephone Surveys**

For residents unable to attend the open houses, the community open house presentation and community survey can be accessed from the home page of the hospital's website, [www.yorkcentral.on.ca](http://www.yorkcentral.on.ca). On demand streaming videos of the open houses will also be available and is accessible from the hospital's website.

In the coming weeks, York Central Hospital will seek further input on its vision to create a major regional health system for Southwest York Region through a home telephone survey. The hospital has engaged the assistance of an independent polling company to conduct a telephone survey on the hospital's vision for future hospital development which will seek input from 500 residents of Southwest York Region. If contacted, the hospital encourages residents to participate as the thoughts and input from community members are valuable to the success of the project.

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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 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.