

Media Release

York Central Hospital Invites Residents of Southwest York Region to Attend Community Open Houses on Future Hospital Development

Richmond Hill, ON – On February 23 and March 1, York Central Hospital will host community open houses in Vaughan and Richmond Hill to share with community members its vision to create a major regional health system that will include two full-service hospitals for Southwest York Region. The open houses will allow residents to learn about the progress made in planning for the future facilities which are key in developing the two-hospital health care system. Community members will also have an opportunity to provide their thoughts on the hospital's proposed plans.

“Community engagement is an important part of our project planning. We are excited to meet with residents to share how our project has evolved since our last open house that took place in September of last year,” says Dina Palozzi, Chair, Board of Trustees, York Central Hospital. “Given the complexity in planning for two hospital sites, we are very pleased with the significant progress made in our project planning. The proposed architectural concepts are specifically designed to meet the growing health care needs of the people of Southwest York Region.”

The upcoming open houses are the second round of community consultations the hospital has held on its development project that will help better meet the health care needs of Vaughan, Richmond Hill and surrounding communities. Residents will be provided with an overview of the proposed services that will be offered through the two-hospital health care system as well as an overview of the building concepts of the future facilities.

Creating a Major Regional Health System

York Central Hospital's development project envisions one hospital corporation to oversee a two hospital health care system which includes building a new hospital in Vaughan and further development of York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill. The hospital's project vision: *Connecting you with tomorrow's health care*, has helped to guide the planning process and reflects what the hospital will bring to the community – a patient-centered health care system that brings the newest technologies, innovative models of care and evidence-based facility design to enrich the health and well-being of its diverse community.

“Through our two hospital model we have an enormous and unique opportunity to shape the way

health care is delivered in our community,” said Altaf Stationwala, President and CEO, York Central Hospital. “This is an exciting time for our hospital and community as we work together to bring high quality and efficient health care that will provide services close to home for residents in Southwest York Region.”

Thanks to the thoughts and input from its community, health and service partners and the hospital’s staff and physicians, York Central Hospital has made remarkable progress towards the completing the first stage of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s five stage capital planning process. The hospital is on schedule to submit its Stage One submission to the Ministry in April 2011. Approval of Stage One is necessary before the hospital can move forward with Stage Two of the capital planning process.

Opportunity for community members to contribute their thoughts

For those who are unable to attend either open house, residents can still provide their thoughts on future health services and facilities through a special community questionnaire which will be accessible from the home page of the hospital’s website, www.yorkcentral.on.ca, following the open house in Richmond Hill on March 1, 2011.

For more information on the upcoming open houses please contact the hospital’s development office at (905) 883-1212 ext. 7282.

<p><u>Community Open House – Vaughan</u> Location: Vellore Village Community Centre Address: 1 Villa Royale Avenue Vaughan, Ontario Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Community Open House – Richmond Hill</u> Location: Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts Address: 10268 Yonge Street Richmond Hill, Ontario Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2011 Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.</p>
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Media Contacts:

Melina Cormier
 Chief, Communications and Public Affairs
 York Central Hospital
 Tel: (905) 883-1212 ext. 7492
 E-mail: mcormier@yorkcentral.on.ca

Nora Ansah
 Communications Coordinator
 York Central Hospital
 Tel: (905) 883-1212 ext 7282
 Email: nansah@yorkcentral.on.ca

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.