

Hospital plays pivotal role in Doctors' Day proclamation

York Central Hospital is proud to have played a pivotal role in launching a provincewide recognition of doctors.

The hospital has hosted a doctor appreciation day for the past two years; its success prompted Reza Moridi, MPP for Richmond Hill to bring the idea to the Legislature. "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."

In 2009, York Central was the first hospital in Canada to observe Doctors' Day to recognize the essential role our doctors play in delivering expert and compassionate care. Based on the success of the Doctors' Day initiative at York Central Hospital, on April 7 Mr. Moridi introduced his motion to the Ontario Legislature to declare May 1 Doctors' Day in Ontario. The date was chosen because it is the birthday of the first female physician in Canada, Dr. Emily Stowe. There are no Canadian provincial jurisdictions that have legislation or proclamations of any type of doctors' appreciation day.

"Doctors are an integral component of our health care system and every day, over 400,000 patients are treated by Ontario's physicians," said Mr. Moridi. "It was an honour to present my resolution to the Ontario Legislature and to receive all-party support for the formal declaration of May 1 as Doctors' Day."

"This is an opportunity for patients and the public to show their appreciation to the 26,000 practising doctors in Ontario."

York Central credentialed its first physicians on Dec. 10, 1963. Since then its medical staff has grown from the original 48 members to 374 physicians who practise in over 30 specialties. Members of York Central's 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.