



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Monday, July 17, 2006**

**VAUGHAN WELCOMES NEW HEALTH CENTRE AS FIRST STEP TOWARDS  
“CAMPUS OF CARE”**

VAUGHAN – JULY 17, 2006 – Earlier today Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care announced the approval of a new Community Health Centre in the City of Vaughan. The new Centre, to be opened in 2006/2007, will expand services in a number of health care areas for patients and their families in the Vaughan community.

The centre is one of 12 new Community Health Centres Minister Smitherman announced will be implemented across the province, providing a mix of primary care and social services.

“We are pleased the province is committed to bringing additional health care resources to meet the needs of our rapidly growing population,” said Mayor Michael Di Biase, Chair of the Vaughan Health Care Foundation. “Better primary health care services and improved access to illness prevention and wellness programs will be the cornerstone of this new Centre. This announcement is good news for the residents of Vaughan.”

The new Vaughan Community Health Centre is envisioned to be unlike any other facility of its kind in Ontario, offering a broad range of health care services. Last year a Task Force of city officials, health experts, physicians and community leaders identified the need for additional health care services in Vaughan. The Task Force’s study recommended that a new and innovative health care facility is required to adequately address wait times for primary and secondary acute care and overcome gaps in other areas of service, while incorporating the principles of the province’s health care transformation plan. The need for a new facility was recently acknowledged by a report released by the GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance.

“This is a good first step in moving toward our vision of the Vaughan Health Campus of Care - a new comprehensive health care facility,” said Mr. Angelo Baldassarra, President of the Vaughan Health Care Foundation. “We’ll continue to work with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to address Vaughan’s need for health care resources above and beyond primary care.”

Since its inception in 2004, the Vaughan Health Care Foundation, a volunteer-driven charity, has been working tirelessly to bring additional health care resources to the community of Vaughan. Its mandate is to raise funds to establish and support health care facilities and services in the City of Vaughan, and to determine how to best meet the health care needs of the community.

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