



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 14, 2018

**Ontario Government moves forward with plans to support
Yee Hong Residential Hospice**

The provincial government is moving forward with plans to support the development of Yee Hong Scarborough Residential Hospice, announced today (Friday) by Minister of Seniors and Accessibility, Dr Raymond Cho (MPP Scarborough –North) at Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care.

The Ministry of Health and Long-term Care confirmed that the Government is investing nearly \$33.6 million to build 193 new hospice beds across Ontario, including 10 beds under development at Yee Hong.

“Everyone should have access to dignified end-of-life care that respects the wishes of the patient and their loved ones,” said Minister Cho. “That’s why I am proud our government is committed to improving access to comfortable, end-of-life care in communities across the province like Scarborough.”

With the investment, the Ontario Government has made end-of-life care a priority. “Our government is ensuring that these patients are provided with the proper comfort, dignity and respect they deserve. This will also help make more beds available for those who need hospital care. Our government is moving forward quickly to address challenges facing the health care system as we develop our long-term transformational health care strategy,” Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Christine Elliott said earlier this week

A recent Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) report said that up to 89% of all Canadians could benefit from palliative care in their last year of life, but only 15% of people who died in 2016–2017 received publicly funded palliative home care (*data is from Ontario and Alberta only*).

(more)





According to Hospice Palliative Care Ontario (HPCO), there are 342 residential hospice beds in 49 locations across Ontario, but Scarborough has never had one.

“Yee Hong is building a residential hospice because we are committed to broaden our services to meet the emerging needs of aging seniors. Yee Hong is humbled to support Scarborough and surrounding area residents by filling this gap and enhancing hospice palliative services in our ethnic community,” said Dr Joseph Wong, Yee Hong Founder and Foundation Chair. “We are encouraged by the government’s recent announcement to fund residential hospices across Ontario.”

Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care has already started development on the residential hospice. “Phase 1 relocation renovations will be completed by end of 2018. Yee Hong has already relocated our Medical Clinic, and will be relocating additional departments, staff and the Yee Hong Community and Wellness Foundation in order to transform a new space for palliative and end-of life care. Phase 2, which is the construction of the residential hospice by redeveloping the vacated space, will begin in Spring 2019,” said the Centre’s CEO Tracy Jones.

Ms Jones added, “Based on current construction schedules and anticipated design approval dates, we are anticipating that the residential hospice will be able to receive residents in early 2020.”

The Yee Hong Scarborough Residential Hospice will be the first and only hospice co-located in a long-term care home. Scarborough is home to many languages and cultures, making the culturally-appropriate end-of-life care from Yee Hong Scarborough Residential Hospice a vitally important option for area residents.

“Yee Hong and our community partners are reaching out to potential donors to ensure the sustainability of the residential hospice by activating an endowment fund. Our aim is to raise \$6 million with no limit on the endowment fund. We need your help to make this a reality,” said Mr Stephen Siu, President of Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation.

(more)





**Yee Hong Community
Wellness Foundation**

頤康基金會

60 Scottfield Drive
Scarborough, Ontario M1S 5T7
Tel: 416.321.0777
Fax: 416.321.0778
E-mail: foundation@yeehong.com
Website: www.yeehong.com



From left: CEO of Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care, Ms Tracy Jones; Minister of Seniors and Accessibility, Dr Raymond Cho (MPP Scarborough –North); Yee Hong Founder and Foundation Chair, Dr Joseph Wong; President of Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation, Mr Stephen Siu

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Cathy Zhou, Senior Public Relations Officer, Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation

Tel: 416-877-2051x1821; Email: cathy.zhou@yeehong.com

