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## **VAUGHAN WELCOMES PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S INCREASED FUNDING FOR HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION**

**VAUGHAN, ON** – On behalf of Vaughan Council, Mayor Michael Di Biase has welcomed today's Ontario government announcement that the province will be increasing its funding support for hospital construction projects.

"I am very pleased that the McGuinty government is stepping forward to help communities manage the heavy financial challenges of building new infrastructure, particularly in the area of health care," said Mayor Di Biase. "This is good news for a community like Vaughan that is committed to improving health-care services."

The new cost share approach increases the provincial government's support for hospital capital projects to 90 per cent of the eligible construction costs. Previously, the standard rate for hospital projects was 50 per cent. Hospitals, which usually depend on community-based fundraising campaigns, will be responsible for "only ten percent of the construction costs as well as the costs associated with the purchase of new and replacement equipment," according to the announcement.

Said Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman: "We are increasing our support to hospitals for capital costs, so they can move ahead with their projects. In this way, hospitals can meet the future health needs of their communities."

In 2003, Vaughan Council created the "Vaughan Health-Care Facility Study Task Force" to help determine the need and establish the vision for a health-care facility in the City of Vaughan. "The Vaughan Health-Care Facility Planning and Implementation Study" was approved by Council in February, 2005. It forms the basis of the City's request to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for its support to proceed with the planning and development processes for a health-care facility in Vaughan.

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