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Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering
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November 12, 2008

Rec'd Nov 15/08

Yvonne Bosch / Bill Parish
Friends of the Ajax/Pickering Hospital
68 Hills Road
Ajax ON L1S2W4

Dear Mrs. Bosch and Mr. Parish:

We are writing to you today to seek the support of the Friends of Ajax and Pickering Hospital in our drive to gain additional operational funding to open 29 medical beds at our Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering (RVAP) hospital campus. We have asked the Central East LHIN for its approval and funding to add the medicine b into space becoming available at RVAP, as a result of consolidating our mental health inpatient unit.

The growing needs of Durham are clear, as your community organization well knows. Demand for inpatient medical care, accessed through our Emergency Department (ED), has exceeded the current Ministry of He and Long-Term Care bed allotment for RVAP. Evidence has shown that without the additional medical bed: we will continue to be challenged by the following:

- The wait time in the emergency department to access a medical bed will continue to be high, having increased almost 100 per cent since April 2007;
- The number of patients who leave without being seen may escalate, which means sick patients may not receive timely treatment;
- The number of admitted patients in the ED will continue to be unacceptably high because we do not have the in-patient facilities to treat these patients in the appropriate setting;
- Lack of bed space will continue to impede highly acute patients from getting appropriate care in a timely manner;
- The Durham-wide problem of a lack of timely access to appropriate beds will continue.

As you know, our major construction project remains on track at RVAP, where we are adding 70,000 square feet of new space and renovating another 70,000 square feet of space for emergency and related services. But this redevelopment will not create any additional bed capacity, despite increasing our emergency department size and capacity.

A letter of support from the Friends to the Central East LHIN would help us in our efforts to better meet the growing needs of Durham families. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Janet Ecker in cursive.

Janet Ecker
Chair, RVHS

Handwritten signature of Rik Ganderton in cursive.

Rik Ganderton
President RVHS