



Report to the Board  
Community Advisory Council  
January 12, 2010

Since the last Board meeting the Community Advisory Council (CAC) has met twice.

The focus of the first meeting was a presentation from the hospital on the Clinical Services Plan and an H1N1 update. This meeting was attended by some members of the hospital administration. At this meeting, the CAC had questions regarding the hospital plans for clinical services and how it relates to those services which the CAC feels are critical to the community. From this meeting the CAC requested TSH look at the future needs for expansion of the Birchmount Campus located south of and closest to the new *Downtown Markham* community which is the largest development in Canada.

Our second meeting focussed on a discussion about the Clinical Services Plan, the upcoming budget and how to engage and communicate with community members. The meeting included a presentation from Lai Chu, the Chair of the Collaborative Zone 8, CE LHIN.

Overwhelmingly out of both meetings came a concern from the CAC about the budget and clinical services at the hospital. From various discussions with hospital administration, opinion leaders and media stories related to health care funding there is a concern about how any reductions in the budget will affect the services at the hospital. Secondly there is a concern about what role and input the community, through the CAC, will have in the decision making process. We feel that CAC input, prior to decisions being made, is a critical component to any significant proposed reductions or change to services.

Finally, the CAC is going to launch a campaign to try to inform and engage the community. Among our plans are to present to the Scarborough Community Council and to reach out to local politicians at all levels both to educate them and to seek a public service announcement in their newsletters, cable shows, etc. In addition, we intend to reach out to some rate payers groups, community groups and local papers to increase our presence in the community and we want to ensure that the CAC has a presence on the TSH website. The plan for community engagement should be developed in consultation with those plans currently being made by hospital staff but should be facilitated and executed independently in accordance with the CAC Terms of Reference. We feel strongly that the CAC should be seen by the community as their conduit for communication/information with the hospital on matters such as those which are of current concern, including budgets, expansions or cutbacks.