

For immediate release: September 7, 2007

Ontario Liberal's Plan Commits to Providing Hospital Growth Funding to GTA/905 regions and other fast growing communities

Toronto: The Ontario Liberal's plan, released yesterday, commits to providing \$100 million in additional funding for hospitals in high-growth areas of Ontario to keep pace with population growth.

"The Alliance welcomes the Ontario Liberal Party's commitment to provide additional funding for hospitals in high growth regions in Ontario", said Ann McGuire, chair of the GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance. "We are pleased that the efforts of the Alliance have translated into a commitment from the Liberal Party that will help ensure that hospital services in our communities are better able to keep pace with the rapid and on-going population growth."

Currently, the per resident funding gap for hospital services in the GTA/905 and Dufferin County is \$218 below the provincial average. As a result, the gap in annual operating funding for GTA/905 and Dufferin County hospitals stands at \$941 million below the provincial average level of funding.

"Having the Ontario Liberal Party commit to taking this important step to fix the hospital funding gap in the GTA/905 and other high growth regions will help bring better care close to home for more than three million Ontarians", said McGuire.

"We're hopeful that provincial parties will build on their commitments for hospital and health care growth funding by committing to move Ontario to a population-needs-based funding formula to distribute health care funding to LHINs," added McGuire. "Population-needs-based funding will ensure that all Ontarians, regardless of where they live, will receive a fair share of provincial health care resources."

The GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance is the collective voice of acute care and mental health hospitals across the GTA/905 regions and Dufferin County, an area that is home to more than 25 per cent of Ontario's population. Alliance hospitals in these communities provide care for residents in the fastest growing area in Ontario, accounting for more than half of Ontario's annual population growth. To bring better care close to home for the more than three million residents living in the GTA/905 and Dufferin county, the Alliance has been calling for adequate an on-going growth funding and allocating provincial resources on the basis of population needs.

- 30 -

For information contact:

Tariq Asmi, Executive Director

GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance

Cell: (416) 948-2033 Office: (416) 205-1331

tariq.asmi@gtahc.com www.gta905health.com