



The York Centre for Children, Youth & Families

11225 Leslie Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4S 1N5

April 21, 2006

Pat Miller
Clerk's Office
Town of Markham

Dear Ms. Miller,

On behalf of The York Centre for Children, Youth & Families, I am requesting the opportunity to come on deputation to the May 15, 2006 meeting of the General Council.

The York Centre is a children's mental health centre which annually provides a range of therapeutic and intervention services for approximately 1,500 children, youth and their families who are experiencing social, emotional, behavioural or mental health problems. Day Treatment is the main focus of The York Centre's services. This intensive support benefits children and youth whose complex mental health needs cannot be addressed within the school system. They receive therapeutic treatment and individualized academic programming during their stay at The York Centre and are reintegrated into the school system about a year later. Day treatment for children and youth from across York Region is provided at two programme sites in Richmond Hill. *"These facilities are below the quality of those found in most Children's Mental Health Centres and create unnecessarily difficult conditions for staff and clients."* The foregoing is an observation made by an accreditation team in June 2003.

To provide more appropriate facilities, the Board of Directors for The York Centre developed the Expansion/Consolidation Plan. The cost of this project is \$3.5 million. The Council for the Town of Richmond Hill very generously approved a \$1 million capital grant for this project. We believe that, by this grant, the Richmond Hill Council has demonstrated a strong sense of responsibility for helping to build healthy communities. We are now appealing to the other 8 municipalities to show their support for children's mental health services in York Region by collectively donating \$500,000 to this important community endeavour over a three year period. This amount would match the \$500,000 which The York Centre Family has pledged, and together then we would match Richmond Hill's \$1 million grant.

We look forward to the opportunity to meet with members of the General Council to provide additional information about The York Centre and the importance of Municipal support for this high priority project. Our delegation includes: Dr. Helena Jaczek - Member of The York Centre's Capital Campaign Cabinet, Mr. Paul Meadows - Executive Director of The York Centre, Mrs. Noreen Lee - Chairperson, Board of Directors. If you require additional information, please contact me at 905-851-1672.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,

Noreen Lee

Noreen Lee, Chairperson
The York Centre for Children, Youth & Families

Enclosure: "Building....for Children's Mental Health",
Executive Summary of The York Centre's Case Statement