

## Property set aside for new Providence Care hospital at King Street West

**March 20, 2009 – Kingston** – Plans for a new Providence Care hospital are moving forward, thanks to an agreement between Providence Care and the Ontario Realty Corporation. The ORC has agreed to set aside 25 acres of land to Providence Care at King Street West and Portsmouth Avenue for the construction of a new hospital. The agreement could lead to Providence Care and the ORC signing a long-term lease on the property, contingent upon approval of their capital plan by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure.

“This is a significant milestone for Providence Care,” said Dale Kenney, President & CEO of Providence Care. “In 2005 we received a \$16.5 million planning grant from the provincial government, supporting our redevelopment project. Today, we can move forward with our planning for a facility at King Street West because the ORC has agreed to enter into a long-term lease with Providence Care when our redevelopment project is approved. Our necessary planning and design work on the new hospital can now become more focused on this site.”

The new building would bring together Providence Care’s mental health, complex continuing care, palliative care, specialized geriatric medicine, and rehabilitation programs, and replace the aging St. Mary’s of the Lake Hospital and Mental Health Services facilities.

“Today’s announcement is great news for Providence Care and our health care community in Kingston. Our government realizes that safe and well maintained hospitals are an important part of quality health care, not only for the patients but for health care professionals,” said John Gerretsen, MPP for Kingston and The Islands and Minister of The Environment.

In keeping with Providence Care’s strategic direction to enhance the quality of life for patients, residents and clients, the new hospital will provide greatly needed treatment, living, teaching, research and community space. The new building will offer space for patients and clients which is clinically sound and designed with dignity and privacy in mind. The space will be wheelchair accessible throughout with bright living spaces.

Providence Care’s redevelopment project is supported by the University Hospitals Kingston Foundation’s *Together We Can* campaign.

*The \$70 million Together We Can campaign is the largest and most important health care fundraising initiative in the history of Southeastern Ontario. Led by the University Hospitals Kingston Foundation, the joint fundraising arm for Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston General Hospital and Providence Care, the campaign will raise money for the redevelopment of our hospitals, the purchasing of equipment and the funding of medical research and staff education. [www.kingstonhospitalsfoundation.ca](http://www.kingstonhospitalsfoundation.ca).*

*Providence Care leads the way in compassion and discovery, through the provision of rehabilitation, specialized geriatric care, complex continuing care, specialized mental health care, palliative care and long-term care. One of Kingston’s university hospitals, Providence Care has three main sites in Kingston: Mental Health Services, St. Mary’s of the Lake Hospital and Providence Manor, as well as 18 community locations. Affiliated with Queen’s University, Providence Care is a major centre for teaching and research.*

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