

November 9, 2006

SHERBOURNE HEALTH CENTRE AND RELATED PROGRAMS

The McGuinty government is investing \$2,502,150 in the new Sherbourne Health Centre (SHC) and related specialized programming. The new SHC, currently nearing the end of construction, is expected to be operational in January, 2007 and will be the site of the Sherbourne Family Health Team to provide comprehensive primary health care services to diverse populations in the local community.

Sherbourne Health Centre

The SHC will receive a \$2,067,400 increase to its 2006/07 base funding. This funding will allow the centre to hire 16 new staff, begin operation of the infirmary and provide an additional 35,000 primary care service visits per year.

The SHC will provide both primary health care and mental health services to populations with complex needs and/or barriers to service. Programs and services include:

- Mental health programs
- Two health buses and a mobile service for homeless individuals
- Primary care services, included services designed to accommodate disadvantaged communities
- Targeted lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered primary care services
- Infirmary care
- Partnership programs in chiropody and naturopathy clinics for people with HIV/AIDS

Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line

The Youth Line is a toll-free, confidential phone line that provides peer support to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgendered, 2-spirited, queer and questioning youth throughout Ontario. With the additional \$84,750 in funding the phone line expects to provide peer support to 3,000 people a year.

Supporting Our Youth (SOY)

SOY is a health promotion program with the goal of promoting community integration and healthy futures for at-risk lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) youth in Toronto. The program reduces risk behaviours, emotional distress and isolation through ongoing outreach and positive peer and mentoring relationships with supportive adults from the LGBT community.

The program also provides access to resources including counseling, health care, employment, housing, financial support, language training, immigration support and education and training. SOY maintains over 4,800 direct contacts with LGBT youth.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered (LGBT) Parenting Network

The LGBT Parenting Network is designed to reduce social isolation and promote healthy, resilient LGBT-led families by providing health information and social services to LGBT parents and their children. Programs include Queer Positive Prenatal classes and a Queer Parenting Exchange, as well as various workshops, and social and recreational activities.

The network also offers programs, services, workshops and recreational events for LGBT-led families.

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Media Contacts:

David Spencer
Minister's Office
416-327-4320

A.G. Klei
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
416-314-6197

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