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## News Release

May 1, 2018

## More long-term care beds for Yee Hong in Scarborough

Ontario is creating 353 new long-term care beds in Scarborough, including 224 beds for Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care, to help give seniors better access to high-quality care and continue to live happy and healthy lives.

On behalf of the Ontario Government, Ms Soo Wong, MPP for Scarborough-Agincourt, made the announcement today (Tuesday) at a press conference at Yee Hong Finch. Apart from Yee Hong, the Scarborough Care Community will also get 129 beds.

MPP Dr Raymond Cho for Scarborough-Rouge River also spoke at the press conference. Other participants included Dr Joseph Wong, Yee Hong Founder and Chair of Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation; Ms Tracy Jones, CEO of Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care; Mr Stephen Siu, President of Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation; and seniors' representatives from the Yee Hong community.

These new beds are part of the Province's commitment to build 5,000 new long-term care beds by 2022 and more than 30,000 new beds over the next decade. Making long-term care better and more accessible is part of the Government's plan to support care, create opportunity and make life more affordable during this period of rapid economic change.

Today's announcement followed the news last Friday that the Government of Ontario would award 320 new long-term care beds in Mississauga to a partnership between Yee Hong, Trillium Health Partners, and Indus Community Services.

"I am pleased that the Ontario Government is continuing to invest in seniors care in the community," said MPP Soo Wong. "Today's announcement of more long-term care beds will allow seniors in Scarborough to access quality care close to home, along with care in diverse languages."

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"While Canada is a young country, Canadians in general are getting older and living longer. Demand for admission into long-term care homes continues to be overwhelming," said Dr Joseph Wong. "With our partners, we look forward to providing innovative solutions and learning experiences to bring culturally appropriate care to the elderly community in Scarborough."

The 224 new beds will be accommodated in a four-storey new home to be built on Yee Hong's own land next to the existing Yee Hong Centre at Finch/Middlefield. Residents in the new facility will be able to take advantage of the existing programs provided by Yee Hong Finch.

The ground floor of the building may include a specialized care unit for the provision of convalescent care to patients from the Scarborough and Rouge Hospital. As a greenfield project, the new facility will incorporate best practices and new technologies in resident care.

Social Services Network, a local community services provider for the South Asian community, will join Yee Hong in this project to provide Scarborough's Asian and South Asian communities with culturally-appropriate long-term care.

Scarborough is in great need of high quality, culturally responsive health care services and support across the continuum of care, especially long-term care. Over 6,000 seniors are waiting for placement across the four Yee Hong homes in the Greater Toronto Area, a delay that can last from eight to 10 years.

The fast-growing South Asian community in Scarborough has no dedicated long-term care beds. Yee Hong is the first to provide culturally appropriate care to South Asian seniors. The project, when completed, would reduce their waiting time. The expanded capacity at Yee Hong Finch will bring care closer to the seniors in Scarborough.

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The Scarborough area is home to a high proportion of seniors aged 75 and over, about 10.3 per cent of the population according to the 2016 census. This shovel-ready project will address the long-term care capacity gap by 2022.

Yee Hong delivers high quality long-term care, certified Exemplary in 2016 at all four long-term care homes by Accreditation Canada.

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For more information, please contact:

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