



**Yee Hong Centre
For Geriatric Care**

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

YEE HONG & MON SHEONG JOINT ADVOCACY: Long-Term Care Bed Proposition

September 1, 2011 (Scarborough) – Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care and Mon Sheong Foundation – the two leading non-profit long-term care (LTC) providers in the GTA Chinese community are jointly advocating for Ontario to grant 500 new LTC bed licences for the establishment of two new facilities to serve their waiting list of up to 9+ years.

“It is disheartening to see our seniors wait up to 9+ years for an LTC bed in a home that meets their needs when the average Ontario wait time for a mainstream LTC bed is 106 days. In a recent survey, 88% of the 366 seniors in our life-lease facilities and Adult Day Programs reported that they are applying or have applied for LTC admission, and 91% of these applicants are applying to an LTC home providing culturally appropriate care. 23% of the surveyed expects to be in absolute need for LTC services in less than 6 months, 47% in 1-3 years, and 59% in 3-6 years. These numbers add to the current total of 5,000 applicants on the Yee Hong-Mon Sheong combined waiting lists for the 1,262 beds shared among the four Yee Hong and three Mon Sheong centres. The fact that they need to wait so much longer for the care they need means that many of them may not survive the wait, and that their families are under a lot of stress during the wait from taking time off work and their lack of knowledge, skills and resources to provide care,” indicated Florence Wong, CEO of Yee Hong.

Veronica Yeung, granddaughter of 83 year-old Po-Kwai HO at Yee Hong Ho Lai Oi Wan Centre in Markham, explained that “grandpa had been on the waiting list for an ethnic home for almost 6 years before he was hospitalized from Dementia-induced accidents and got transferred as a crisis case into a regular home, where he became depressed and suicidal from maladjustment and was transferred to another regular home. He said he had ‘won the lotto’ as after 10 years he finally got a spot at Yee Hong where he became socially interactive with staff and friends. My mom is a single parent and the only child in town. I was too young to help out in any significant way. The wait was very emotionally taxing as well as physically and financial challenging for us.”

Tim Kwan, Chairman and President of Mon Sheong Foundation added, “In recent years, Mon Sheong has been working hard to alleviate the public’s demand for long-term care beds arising from our aging population. We built Scarborough Mon Sheong Court and are working on the Richmond Hill Mon Sheong Court project. We also developed the Adult Day Program to ease the pressure of caregivers. Recently, a few incidents relating to the inappropriate treatment to seniors happened. We feel that there is a need to urge the provincial government to address the issue seriously, and to arouse the public’s concern in this matter before the upcoming Ontario Provincial Elections. We are asking the Ontario government for 500 new bed licences for the establishment of two long-term care facilities – a 250-bed facility operated by Yee Hong in Scarborough and a 250-bed facility operated by Mon Sheong in Markham.”

Mr. Ng, a 94-year-old resident at Mon Sheong Scarborough Long-Term Care Centre (SLTC), and his 82-year-old wife shared their feelings about the long wait. They applied for admission to SLTC in 2006 as they are getting older but all their children are not living in Canada. Their health especially Mr. Ng’s eyesight is getting poor. After a fall at home, Mr. Ng’s situation turned worse and Mrs. Ng could no longer take care of him. The case social worker recommended him for a private room, which helped reduce his waiting time. He was admitted to SLTC two months ago but Mrs. Ng is still on the waiting list. She now goes to SLTC everyday to visit her husband, and hopes to get a place in SLTC as soon as possible.

Dr. Joseph Y.K. Wong, Founder of Yee Hong proposed that “Yee Hong and Mon Sheong have the solution to the problem. We are ready to expand our capacity to meet this service gap in the community. Our supporters and volunteers are ready for a capital campaign to raise funds to build the new facilities. What the Government of Ontario can do to help is to grant 500 LTC bed licences to our community, so that each of our organization can establish a new facility to shorten the LTC waiting list. As a member of the community, what you can do is to write to your MPP candidates during this provincial election time, to express how much you want to the Ontario government to equip service providers like us to serve you better.”

The public is encouraged to visit the www.yeehong.com website to communicate to their MPP candidates.

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Backgrounder

The Mon Sheong Foundation, founded in 1964, is Ontario's first Chinese charitable organization for over four decades. To-date, it have three long term care facilities at D'Arcy Street in downtown Toronto, Richmond Hill and Scarborough for a total of 457 long-term care beds to serve the GTA and neighbouring communities. The MSF Chinese School, established in 1968, is one of the largest Chinese schools in Canada, providing Chinese heritage programs for over 1,000 children and adults. The Mon Sheong Foundation also has its own Youth Group, which focuses on developing and coaching our younger generation to become leaders of tomorrow.

Yee Hong is a caring community where seniors enjoy a continuum of culturally and linguistically appropriate care. With a client-centred and personalized approach, Yee Hong is currently serving 15,000 seniors and their families across the GTA. The waiting list for our 805 long-term care beds has surpassed 2,500 – the longest in Ontario. In order to sustain our level of care delivered and the many community based programs, Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation raises funds each year to support the four centres' operations.

Testimonies

Yee Hong User:

- Daughter Kelly HO & granddaughter Veronica YEUNG of Markham resident 83-yr old Mr. Po Kwai HO
- Waited 10 years before settling in Yee Hong Ho Lai Oi Wan Centre in Markham
- Stayed at 2 mainstream homes before where his Dementia was aggravated, he got depressed & suicidal

Mon Sheong User:

- Resident: Mr. NG, 94 years old and wife Mrs. Ng aged 82, waiting for admission to Mon Sheong
- Mr. Ng was on the waiting list for more than 6 years before his admission to Mon Sheong in 2011
- Mrs. Ng applied for admission in 2006 and is still on the waiting list

Latest Yee Hong Survey Results

Total # of Respondents: Yee Hong Adult Day Program and Life-Lease Users		366
LTC Applicants		24%
Out of these 24% of respondents, this is a breakdown of their needs	with cognitive impairment	4.4%
	with physical limitations	15.3%
	with family challenges	12.3%
	applying for culturally appropriate home	91%
	1-6 mths before absolutely needing LTC	23%
	1-3 yrs before absolutely needing LTC	47%
	3-6 yrs before absolutely needing LTC	59%
Receiving CCAC services		21%
Out of these 21% of respondents, this is a breakdown of their needs	Bathing	82%
	Meal preparation	8%
	Nursing	4%
	Housekeeping	17%
	Balance of Care	27%

Supporting Organizations

Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto
 Momiji Health Care Society
 Ontario Social Workers Association
 Taiwanese Canadian Community Service Association

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