

January 24, 2022

Hon. Jill Dunlop
Minister of Colleges and Universities
438 University Ave. 5th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 1N3

Re: York University's Proposal for a School of Medicine in the City of Vaughan

Minister Dunlop,

The City of Vaughan is committed to improving access to healthcare and education for the people of our City, Region, Province, and Country. In partnership with York University, we have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to enhancing healthcare services through research, education, and innovation to support the healthcare needs of our residents.

On behalf of Council, I endorse York University's proposal for a new school of medicine in the strongest possible terms. York's interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning, and its reputation for excellence in research are at the centre of Vaughan's ongoing work to make the land adjacent to the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital – Canada's first Smart Hospital – a world-class health innovation district which will shape the next generation of health and healthcare research, delivery, and teaching in Canada.

Shaping the future of healthcare research, delivery, and teaching has been at the core of York University's efforts with the City of Vaughan. From the beginning of our work, it has been clear that York University is focused on creating a new model for medical training that will end hallway medicine by putting preventative and integrated care at the core of its programs. York has consistently demonstrated that it is committed to centering its learning and research on the communities it serves.

The City of Vaughan is working with York University to seize this opportunity to end hallway medicine and keep our residents healthy through York's innovative approach. To support the establishment of a York University School of Medicine alongside the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital within a world-class Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct, the City of Vaughan has identified a portion of a 15-acre site along Highway 400 at Major Mackenzie Dr on which to host Ontario's newest Medical School. This site was identified as ideal for a York University health research and teaching facility in York Region by the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct Feasibility study. In partnership with Mackenzie Health, ventureLAB, and York University, the City of Vaughan has further vetted these findings in a Council-led Task Force that has recommended the City enter negotiations for the land fronting Highway 400.

The work leading to the recommendation to negotiate with York University for land adjacent to the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital is backed by a series of milestones achieved since 2019. These include:

- October 2019: Memorandum of Understanding signed, formalizing collaboration between the City of Vaughan, Mackenzie Health, York University and ventureLAB to complete a feasibility study to maximize the social and economic use of the lands adjacent to the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital
- November 2019: a Council-led trade delegation to Israel which included representatives from York University met with leaders of the world-class Rambam Medical Centre to identify best practices and opportunities in integrated health care education and delivery
- June 2020: Despite the Global COVID-19 pandemic, the partnership delivered the first phase of the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct Feasibility study
- June 2021: Council endorsed York University's vision for a School of Medicine in Vaughan
- September 2021: a Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct Advisory Task Force was established to set the direction for the realization of the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct inclusive of a York University Health research, innovation, and teaching facility
- October 2021: Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct Feasibility study published and approved by City of Vaughan Council
- December 2021: the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct Advisory Task Force recommended that the City enter negotiations with York University for land at the Healthcare Precinct. Staff will bring a report to Council in February 2022 to receive Council endorsement to secure City-owned lands for York University adjacent to the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital

These achievements are possible because of Vaughan's growing and talented population and its vibrant economy. From 2011 to 2016, Vaughan's population grew by 6.2%, outpacing national and provincial growth. Today, Vaughan is home to more than 330,000 people with nearly 70% of adults having attained a post-secondary accreditation. Vaughan continues to be a city of choice for residents. In Vaughan's emerging downtown, for example, residential development will house 288% of the area's 2031 targets. A School of Medicine would help meet the healthcare needs of Vaughan's growing community, and leverage our talented workforce to advance healthcare innovation, supporting the delivery of modern healthcare services.

The health, life sciences, and social assistance sector are drivers of our local economy and provide a welcome environment for a School of Medicine. The sector will present opportunities for York University's graduates, and placements for research in integrated health and healthcare delivery. In 2019, the sectors had made up nearly 6% of firms in Vaughan with an estimated 160 businesses in the life sciences sector, and 947 businesses in the healthcare and social assistance sector in Vaughan. Vaughan also has a higher-than-average concentration of STEM workers with 42% of the City's employment coming from natural and applied sciences, management occupations, and business, finance and administration occupations.

York University's proposal for a school of medicine will support our vision for Vaughan as a world-class health and healthcare destination to end hallway medicine. When realized, a York University School of Medicine will help the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct generate significant one-time and recurring economic benefits of local, regional, and national significance including:

- One-time impacts of more than \$755 million in value added to the Canadian economy with opportunities for some 6,300 full-time equivalent employment positions and upwards of \$276 million in government revenues
- Annual recurring benefits providing a permanent on-site employment base of 1,800 jobs yielding more than \$350 million in operational output each year

I am confident that the social and economic benefits for the Region, Ontario, and Canada of a York University School of Medicine in the City of Vaughan will improve healthcare, education, and opportunity for our residents. A York University School of Medicine is an opportunity for Ontario to advance efforts to create an integrated healthcare system focused on the needs of patients and end hallway medicine. That is why the City of Vaughan is working to provide York University with land adjacent to the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital, to support York University through its talented and growing resident base, and to connect York University to industry opportunities to advance research and education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maurizio Bevilacqua". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, P.C.

Mayor