



**Yee Hong Centre
For Geriatric Care**

頤康中心



COMMUNITY ADVOCACY: BED LICENCE PROPOSITION - August 2011

- There is a high concentration of frail and elderly Chinese Canadians in the GTA who require a level of care beyond home care and community services. Many are cognitively impaired and physically challenged with eating, bathing, dressing and other needs beyond what their families can meet, even with community support.
- **Yee Hong and Mon Sheong jointly seek for the Government of Ontario to grant 500 new LTC bed licences** to build a new facility in Scarborough and one in Markham to meet the rising community needs. We are ready to launch a capital campaign to build and to serve more seniors through culturally appropriate LTC.

Unmet Community Needs

Over the past two decades, we have seen an aging Chinese population in the GTA, an influx of Chinese immigrants, and gravitation towards the Scarborough and Markham areas for culturally appropriate senior care. These have resulted in more Chinese seniors waiting for LTC beds than ever before. The waiting seniors are becoming **increasingly frail** and **cognitively impaired**. A typical Chinese family in Toronto has adult children who are full-time workers or seniors themselves. Third generations are too young to care for their grandparents. While families take time off work to attend to their elderly, the care they can provide is limited, but the economic impact they create by staying home is huge. Families are struggling and seniors are under-cared.

Bottom line, many Chinese families in Scarborough and Markham do not have the resources, knowledge or skills to care for frail seniors at home and are suffering the consequences as shown in 3 recent incidents (OPP):
 Jan 17: a Chinese dementia victim wandered from home and died of hypothermia in front of a neighbour's house
 Jan 22: a Chinese dementia victim got lost and stayed overnight at a 24-hour drug store for refuge from the cold
 Feb 28: a Chinese dementia victim was settled in a non-insulated garage with inadequate food and supplies

These tragedies are reflective of much longer culturally appropriate LTC wait lists than the provincial averages.

Yee Hong (YH Total = 805 beds) Mon Sheong (MS Total = 457 beds)	Applicants on Waiting List	Applicants with Chinese Cultural Needs	Longest Time on Waiting List
YH Markham: 200 beds	520	480 = 92%	8+ years
YH Mississauga: 200 beds	218	161 = 74%	7+ years
YH Scarborough-Finch: 250 beds	1113	1055 = 95%	7+ years
YH Scarborough-McNicoll: 155 beds	995	995 = 100%	9+ years
MS City of Toronto: 105 beds	160	160 = 100%	5+ years
MS Richmond Hill: 192 beds	636	636 = 100%	7+ years
MS Scarborough: 160 beds	1358	1358 = 100%	7+ years

Region \ Median LTC Wait in Days	Overall	From Hospital	From Home / Community
Ontario	105	53	173
Central LHIN	124	56	214
Central East LHIN	88	57	136
Toronto Central LHIN	78	56	147

With only 5,314 LTC beds, Scarborough and Markham are the homes of almost 50,000 Chinese seniors aged 65+, out of a total Chinese population of 369,000+ as shown in the results of the 2006 Census. At the same time, more seniors are gravitated towards the area to access culturally appropriate care, adding to the wait lists.

2010 Admissions \ Origin	Central LHIN	CE LHIN	Toronto Central LHIN
YH Scarborough-McNicoll	1 of 29	21 of 29	7 of 29
YH Scarborough-Finch	14 of 64	41 of 64	4 of 64
YH Markham	20 of 43	9 of 43	3 of 43
MS City of Toronto	5 of 26	5 of 26	14 of 26
MS Richmond Hill	23 of 38	9 of 38	5 of 38
MS Scarborough	1 of 34	30 of 34	1 of 34



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These high-need and under-cared seniors add pressure to the hospital system by occupying costly ALC beds:

LHIN	ALC-Occupied Acute & Other Beds		LTC Waiters in Acute & Other Care Beds	
Central East	23%	526 beds	69%	365 beds
Central	16%	286 beds	56%	161 beds
Mississauga Halton	6%	93 beds	49%	46 beds

Importance of Culturally Appropriate Care

The average Chinese senior on our LTC wait lists has some form of dementia causing language loss, and suffers mobility challenges limiting daily activities from eating, dressing to bathing. They cannot advocate for their own needs in a regular LTC home. Apart from eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in health care, culturally appropriate care also ensures that all crucial living elements like diet, accommodation and psychosocial well-being are taken care of by health care professionals sensitive to the users' background. This translates into minimized maladjustments from a life-long ethnic diet to a new one in a regular LTC home, and better psychosocial health from a holistic care approach that tailors to specific worship needs; provides familiar entertainment, social activities and ethnic festival celebration; and observes rituals during sickness and end of life. With lower operating costs, our seven culturally appropriate LTC homes are relieving pressure off precious hospital beds while demonstrating a remarkable difference in length of stay resulting from a high quality of life.

Centre \ Years of Stay	Historic Avg	Historic Longest	Current Avg	Current Longest	Industry Avg
YH Scar-McNicoll 1994 -	5.5	16.25	4.61	16.63	Ontario: 3 C LHIN: 3 CE LHIN: 3.2 TC LHIN: 3.7 (MOHLTC HSIMI: as at May 2010)
YH Scar-Finch 2004 -	2.29	6.79	3.94	6.93	
YH Markham 2002 -	2.55	8.25	4	8.5	
YH Mississauga 2003 -	2.98	7.33	3.94	7.41	
MS City of Toronto 1975 -	3.5	24	4	15	
MS Richmond Hill 2003 -	3	6.88	4.2	7.88	
MS Scarborough 2004 -	2.3	6.6	3.71	6.68	

Successful Track Record in the Community

Mon Sheong and Yee Hong have the strengths, talents, network and successful track record in providing a culturally and linguistically appropriate care for GTA's elderly Chinese population. We bridge the care gaps in the community by providing services that existing health care and community programs do not cover – from acute care to rehab, from rehab to home, and assistance during the wait for LTC – comprehensively and cost-effectively. With a client-centred approach, we annually serve 20,500+ Chinese seniors via our LTC centres and community programs. Our excellent care has resulted in a 9+ year wait list for our LTC beds and 2+ years for our community programs. Other community organizations also recognize the need for culturally appropriate care and look to us as a resource partner, including The Scarborough Hospital, CARP, Momiji Health Care Society, University of Toronto, Heart & Stroke Foundation, Alzheimer's Society and other local hospitals. As the two leading providers of culturally appropriate care in the GTA, Mon Sheong and Yee Hong concur that existing LTC resources are far from adequate to meet the present and future LTC needs in the Chinese community.

PROPOSAL: Build & Operate an Additional 250 LTC beds in Scarborough and 250 LTC beds in Markham

This plan addresses the needs to **reduce hospital wait-time** and **LTC wait lists**, and to **bridge health care service gaps**. Yee Hong and Mon Sheong are ready to deliver LTC to more Chinese seniors by leveraging:

- our experience in providing **culturally appropriate care** and delivering a quality **Continuum of Care**
- our **availability of land and site** for new facilities where the community is most underserved
- we have **established infrastructure** to share resources in operating the proposed LTC beds
- our strong **network** of community supporters, staff and volunteers ready to launch a **capital campaign**

YEE HONG and MON SHEONG: JOINT REQUEST TO THE PROVINCE

1. We ask that the Government of Ontario recognize the genuine need for increased LTC capacity in the Scarborough and Markham areas caused by local and neighbouring aging Chinese populations.
2. We ask that the Government of Ontario support us in addressing this need by **issuing 500 LTC bed licences** in order to establish two new LTC homes providing culturally appropriate care for Chinese seniors.

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