

Friday, April 29, 2022

Dr. Rhonda Lenton
President and Vice Chancellor
York University
1050 Kaneff Tower
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

Dear President Lenton,

I am writing to indicate our strong support for the proposed York University School of Medicine.

The Vaughan Chamber of Commerce is one of the largest business associations in the Greater Toronto Area, representing some 800 businesses throughout the City of Vaughan. We have been a vocal advocate for the business community and have worked with our partners at York University to launch programs designed to ensure businesses can adapt to the changing landscape. Through Covid, we have convened town halls with business experts, launched a digital acceleration program, created dedicated resources to ensure information flow to SMEs and distributed more than 140,000 antigen test kits to support our community.

York University has had a longstanding interest in developing a medical school going back to the inception of the Keele Campus in 1962. York University ranks among the top institutions in the world in several health-related programs. These health programs will provide a foundation for the School of Medicine and create opportunities for relevant shared curriculum across nursing and other health programs, facilitating an interdisciplinary and interprofessional education from year one.

Medical education does not exist in a vacuum. Like other sectors, health care is being profoundly impacted by global forces, by technology, by the diversity of our population and by health risks such as the pandemic and the global phenomenon of rising antimicrobial drug resistance. We are not seeing the kinds of changes that we believe are necessary in medical education. A new medical school with a forward-facing, population-based curriculum, and informed by digital technologies can help lead the way.

In our introductory discussions with York University, we were excited by the potential of the proposed School of Medicine. We believe that this proposed school will lead to fundamental changes to improving the wellness and health of our population in the City of Vaughan and beyond.

The proposed School of Medicine is an innovative and forward-thinking design, utilizing an integrated community focused approach to address gaps in our healthcare. This medical school will be important for our community in helping to drive healthcare delivery, education, research, innovation and commercialization for the City of Vaughan.



We are in full support of York University's proposal for a new type of medical school in providing an integrated, value-based, and team-based health care approach supported by distributed clinical learning sites and health care services to the people of the Region.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Shifman
President and CEO
Vaughan Chamber of Commerce