

**For Immediate Release
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Royal Ottawa Hospital Re-Development Begins Next Phase – Potential Parties Invited to Demonstrate Qualifications for New Psychiatric Hospital

OTTAWA –The Royal Ottawa Health Care Group will issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) today as the first major step in identifying a development partnership to design, build, finance, own, operate, property manage and maintain a new hospital facility. This will allow the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group to provide specialized psychiatric mental health services for Eastern Ontario’s Champlain District in a state-of-the-art facility.

“This is an important step in the development of a much needed state-of-the-art hospital in Ottawa,” said Tony Clement, Ontario Minister of Health and Long Term Care. “Today, the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group is moving forward to provide the quality health care services this community requires.”

This innovative development model,was supported by the hospital Board because of the time and cost benefits over traditional procurement methods. The hospital already has a successful private sector partnership for facility management services and has benefitted from this experience. This unique financial arrangement will not extend to clinical services; the delivery of health care services remains the responsibility of the Hospital’s Administration, and the Board with all health care services provided in accordance with the Public Hospital’s Act and within the Canada Health Act.

“This approach was one of many options open to us, but clearly, this financial partnership allowed us the means to acquire a new hospital more quickly than we otherwise could have managed through traditional methods,” said George Langill, CEO, Royal Ottawa Health Care Group. “This is a pilot for the Government of Ontario and we are very keen to see this model work, both effectively and efficiently. One of the strengths of this model is that it allows business partners to focus on their core business strengths such as property management, while allowing our clinical teams to focus on the delivery of healthcare.”

“Through SuperBuild, the Ontario government supports the use of a wide range of financial partnerships to better meet our infrastructure challenges, such as building a new hospital more quickly,” Finance Minister Janet Ecker said.

The RFQ will be followed by a Request for Proposals (RFP), directed at only those consortia who qualify. The hospital Board has tentatively scheduled the RFP for September 2002. The Board's objective is to have a completed and operational facility by late 2004.

The re-development of the Royal Ottawa Hospital was announced last December. News of the re-development was met with widespread applause by the hundreds of community members in attendance to hear the announcement.

The new Royal Ottawa Hospital will have 188 beds, extensive outpatient and outreach services, ample natural lighting and a home-like setting that will provide a state-of-the art healing environment. It will also significantly enhance education and research space.

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