



**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release – June 25, 2007**

**CENTRAL EAST LHIN WORKING WITH ROUGE VALLEY BOARD TO ACHIEVE BALANCED BUDGET**

Review team to identify strategies to improve performance and meet the needs of the community

AJAX – The Central East LHIN announced today that Janet Beed, President and CEO of Markham Stouffville Hospital, will lead a Peer Review Team which will conduct an operational review of the Rouge Valley Health System. The Review Team will assess Board and Management effectiveness, financial management practices, operational effectiveness and productivity and utilization efficiencies.

“All hospitals are expected to achieve balanced budgets as part of the province’s Hospital Accountability Agreement process,” said Nizar Ladak, Interim CEO of the Central East LHIN. “The Rouge Valley board has historically not been able to meet that legislative requirement and this Peer Review will provide them with the guidelines they need to improve their performance.”

Rouge Valley ended fiscal 2006-07 with a deficit of \$2.5 million and has requested an additional \$12.1 million in base funding for 2007-08 without demonstrating how it will balance its budget in the coming year.

The review will include a performance plan to be implemented by the Rouge Valley board, hospital management and medical staff and is expected to result in more stable and consistent services for the communities served by Rouge Valley.

The Central East LHIN has established a Steering Committee, with representatives from Rouge Valley, to work with the Peer Review Team. The Peer Review Team will also include Mary Clare Egberts, Senior Vice President, Operations & Chief Financial Executive from North York General Hospital and Dr. Alfio Meschino, Chief of Staff at Toronto East General Hospital.

“Rouge Valley Health System very much welcomes this review. We hope it will help validate our operational and financial needs and that it will provide the foundation for continuing to deliver high quality family centred acute care to our communities in east Toronto and west Durham,” said Rik Ganderton, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of Rouge Valley Health System. “We will be active partners with the Peer Review team and the Central East Local Health Integration Network. We look forward to the process and the report.”

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The Central East LHIN, which recently released its first Integrated Health Service Plan, is one of 14 not-for-profit organizations, created by the provincial government to be responsible for planning, integrating and funding local health services - hospitals, long term care facilities, community care access centres, community health centres, community support services and mental health and addictions agencies.

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