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**RUNNYMEDE HEALTHCARE CENTRE CELEBRATES NATIONAL NURSING WEEK:
HEALTHCARE IS CHANGING AND SO ARE WE**

TORONTO – Runnymede Healthcare Centre’s President and Chief Executive Officer Connie Dejak was joined by special guests The Hon. Mario Sergio, Minister Responsible for Seniors Affairs and The Hon. Jean Augustine to kick off National Nursing Week.

Prior to the Nursing Week events, these special guests met with other government officials to discuss an exciting new proposition for Runnymede, including the ways that the hospital is planning to address community needs in an ageing population and changing healthcare landscape.

“At Runnymede, we pride ourselves on providing outstanding patient-centred care,” says Connie Dejak. “This new proposition will allow us to address the needs of underserved populations, make a positive impact on the healthcare needs of our community and function as a key system player in Ontario.”

“We are making investments in the health of our seniors to make Ontario the healthiest place in North America to grow up and grow old,” said Mario Sergio, Minister Responsible for Seniors Affairs. “The development of community hubs can help us respond to local needs and improve access to services. They are part of our vision for age-friendly communities.”

As the country celebrates National Nursing Week, Runnymede is proud to have such a dedicated workforce of nurses who provide consistent, compassionate care. It takes a special person to be a nurse, and this week the hospital would like to acknowledge their efforts and extend thanks to all nurses for providing excellent care to patients. Runnymede’s nurses have always played a very special role at the hospital which celebrated its 70th anniversary last October.

In 2009, Runnymede transformed into a fully-accredited, award-winning 200-bed hospital that continues to raise the bar on patient safety, quality of care, fiscal accountability and environmental sustainability. In 2013, Runnymede received an Accreditation with Exemplary Standing, meeting all 534 standards and receiving a perfect score of 100% compliance from Accreditation Canada. This could not have been achieved without our great nurses.

With a reputation of providing care to patients with medically complex cases, Runnymede’s interprofessional team provides comprehensive clinical services to patients who require expert treatment, extended rehabilitation and daily care beyond what can be provided at home or in the community. Runnymede looks forward to the years ahead as it continues to grow and adapt to an ageing population by providing new services to the community and province as a whole.

To learn more, please visit: www.runnymedehc.ca.

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For more information, contact:

Alison Terpenning | Communications Specialist, Runnymede Healthcare Centre
T: 416-762-7316, ext. 2233 | C: 416-550-5503 | alison.terpenning@runnymedehc.ca

Photos of the event available upon request