



## West Island Cancer Wellness Centre reaches \$3 million Capital Campaign goal

**Beaconsfield – October 17, 2016** - The West Island Cancer Wellness Centre (WICWC) is ecstatic to announce it has reached its \$3 million Capital Campaign goal for a larger Centre! Construction of the new building began in April of this year and the WICWC is very excited to move into its new home in Kirkland at the beginning of November.

The purpose of the campaign was to raise enough money to build and furnish a much needed larger facility. The new building is almost triple in size compared to the little yellow farmhouse in Beaconsfield where the Centre has resided since first opening in 2009. The Centre campaigned for the newer building in order to respond to anticipated future needs within the community. According to statistics published in 2015 by the Canadian Cancer Society, the number of new cancer cases in Canada is expected to rise about 40% in the next 15 years. The larger Centre will provide more space for programs and services required to meet the level of psychosocial care expected.

*"This new building will allow us to help so many more families living with cancer. To be placed on a waiting list for our programs was unacceptable. Now, in this bigger building we will be able to offer more services and drastically reduce this as a probability,"* said Debbie Magwood, WICWC Founder & Executive Director. *"It has been a long two years of planning the campaign, searching for the perfect location, fundraising and now the construction. To be where we are today, having reached our goal and now preparing for our big move, is profoundly heartwarming. One of our biggest challenges now is living up to my promise that this new centre will have the same warm feel and sense of home as our current centre. I hope we have succeeded."*

In December 2015, the Centre officially launched its Campaign after receiving a monumental donation of \$1 million (a third of the goal) from the **Eric T. Webster Foundation**. The remaining \$2 million is comprised of donations from large foundations, local large and small businesses, and the community. The WICWC also received many greatly appreciated "In-Kind" donations (furniture, appliances, technology, etc.), which further assisted the Centre in achieving its goal. Top donors will be recognized through "Room Dedications" and on a "Donor Wall" with all other donations. Some of the top donors include: **The Tenaquip Foundation, The Trottier Family Foundation, Olga & Leonard T. Assaly Family Foundation, Amelia & Lino Saputo Jr. Foundation, Deborah and Michael Boychuk, the Molson Foundation, Legacy donation of Lucy Vinet, and the R. Howard Webster Foundation.**

Without government or hospital funding, the WICWC relies solely on fundraising to exist. While thrilled to have reached this ambitious Capital Campaign target, Magwood said there is always room for continued generosity: *"Our main purpose for building this new Centre is to help even more people living with cancer. However, the cost of operations will rise due to its larger size, so we must continue to fundraise as we always have."*

The Centre is still accepting donations from the community as it prepares for this very exciting transition. The opportunity to be part of the large donor wall and the **building's legacy** are still available. Donation for the Legacy Wall can be made on our website (Capital Campaign section), but needs to be done by November 4<sup>th</sup> 2016.

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 2016**



The Centre will be holding a private Grand Opening (INVITE ONLY) followed by an “Open House” on Friday December 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 1:00 pm for the public to see the NEW Centre. Follow the centre on Social media and continually check their website for updates.

For more information on how you can be part of the donor wall and contribute to the Centre’s future, please call 514-695-9355 or visit [wicwc.org](http://wicwc.org) to donate.

**About the West Island Cancer Wellness Centre**

The West Island Cancer Wellness Centre (WICWC) is a registered charity dedicated to improving the health and well-being of people living with cancer by providing FREE programs and services created to address their emotional, physical and spiritual needs. This type of psychosocial intervention in cancer care supports and complements traditional medical practices.

Through our wellness programs, participants will receive personal support, gain coping mechanisms, discover additional alternatives, and become better educated about their specific illness. We will help them gain more control of their lives, find strength, reduce feelings of isolation, and continue to foster hope, regardless of the stage of their disease. They become empowered, active participants in the management of their health and well-being.

**For more information:**

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