

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Region of Durham makes worthwhile Investment to the Building On the Best Campaign in Support of The Best Centre

The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre was unanimously approved for a \$340,125 Community Investment Grant toward the Building on the Best Expansion Campaign from the Region of Durham

(Whitby, ON. – February 7, 2022) – The Regional Committee of the Whole met in September and unanimously voted to approve a Community Investment Grant of \$340,125 be given to The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre (Best Centre). The funds will be used to support the Building on the Best Expansion Campaign with a goal of renovating and expanding the Best Centre, located in North Whitby.

The Best Centre announced the Building on the Best Expansion Campaign this past May. With a goal of \$5 million, The Best Centre is working to raise funds to renovate and expand their current heritage site. The building expansion will include construction of a new Welcome and Reception area that will connect the two existing structures, as well as renovation of the main house.

“Expansion is a necessity as we expect patient demand to double in the next five years” said Lorrie Hagen, Executive Director at The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre. “It is important to receive this support from Durham Region, being that 85% of our patients reside in Durham our services are vital to the good health of those managing type 1 diabetes.”

The Best Centre’s mission is to keep children, youth and adults living with type 1 diabetes (T1D) healthy until a cure is found. Healthcare educators provide an all-encompassing and lifelong approach driven by their vision and values. “The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre is an integral part of Durham Region, and an important part of our health care ecosystem. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Best Centre has continued to deliver top-notch quality care to Durham residents, and in turn has helped to alleviate some of the incredible demand placed on our hospitals. That is why Community Investment Grants and funding are so vital to places like the Best Centre. As our region grows, so too should the Best Centre, in order to keep up with the increasing population and to ensure that everyone has access to all types of services, including specialized health care.” stated Regional Chair and CEO of Durham John Henry.

The Best Centre was founded in 1989 by Marlene Grass who saw a need in the healthcare system and in the community for T1D care and education. “The Best Centre is a leader in type 1 diabetes care and we are the only one of our kind in North America” said Marlene Grass, Founder of the Best Centre. “The Region of Durham appreciates that we are in their backyard and their support makes a great impact.”

About the Building on the Best Expansion

The Building on the Best Campaign goal of \$5 million will allow for a renovation of the two existing structures and an addition of a supplementary conjoining space. Upon completion, the new centre will have full first floor accessibility, 18 patient counselling spaces, a new large event and education space, 6 meeting rooms, and an additional clinic room with a children’s play area.

About the Community Investment Grant

Durham Region's Community Investment Grant Policy supports eligible local healthcare and post-secondary education institutions with financial assistance toward capital infrastructure projects. Eligible projects could receive funding of up to 7.5 per cent of total capital infrastructure costs, subject to compliance with the terms and conditions set out in the policy. Special one-time infrastructure projects that are not associated with local healthcare or post-secondary institutions may also be considered for financial assistance, provided that they meet the Region's strategic objectives and provide a Region-wide benefit.

About The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre

The Best Centre delivers one-of-a-kind patient centred healthcare exclusive to type 1 diabetes. As Canada's only stand-alone centre and charitable organization specializing in type 1 diabetes, the staff provides highly responsive and individualized care. The interdisciplinary care team includes registered nurses, dietitians and social workers who provide frontline healthcare and education throughout patients' lifetime.

Quick Facts

- Type 1 diabetes is an incurable, complex disease. It must be managed 24-hour a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Without insulin, death is certain.
- Type 1 diabetes is a disease in which the pancreas does not produce any insulin. Insulin is an essential hormone that is required to control the level of glucose (sugar) in the blood.
- The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre sees almost 2,000 patients and conducts more than 20,000 healthcare interactions per year to support patients living with type 1 diabetes.
- Roughly 5-10 % of people living with diabetes have type 1 diabetes, insulin-dependent diabetes. Type 1 diabetes generally develops in childhood or adolescence but is also diagnosed in adulthood. People with type 1 need to inject insulin or use an insulin pump to ensure their bodies have the right amount of insulin to survive.

Associated Links

www.charleshbest.com
www.buildingonthebest.ca

For more information or to coordinate media availability, please contact:

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