

# Thorncliffe Park Community Hub – Groundbreaking Ceremony

**Thorncliffe Park Community Hub hosts groundbreaking to mark construction of new multi-service, community-centred space that aims to advance health equity.**

*The Hub’s vision is to provide comprehensive support under one roof, ensuring residents can access a range of essential services in a seamless and inclusive environment close to home.*

**May 23, 2024 (Toronto, ON)** – Community partners in East Toronto hosted a formal groundbreaking ceremony today (May 23) with The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, to mark the construction of the Thorncliffe Park Community Hub, a new 67,000-square-foot multi-service and community-centred space at East York Town Centre (45 Overlea Blvd.) where Thorncliffe Park residents will be able to access health and social services, programs and community spaces.



Attendees at the ceremony included representatives from the Hub’s anchor agency partners, TNO – The Neighbourhood Organization, Flemingdon Health Centre (FHC) and Michael Garron Hospital (MGH); tenant partners, including Health Access Thorncliffe Park, Don Valley Community Legal Services, Toronto Public Health, The Midwives’ Clinic of East York-Don Mills, and Home and Community Support Services – Toronto Central; and funding partners, including the Government of Ontario, the City of Toronto, United Way Greater Toronto, Legal Aid Ontario, and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. Many of these organizations are members of East Toronto Health Partners, the Ontario Health Team serving East Toronto.



Partners spoke to the Hub’s mission to build vibrant, healthy and connected communities by providing innovative, integrated care services and by inspiring neighbourhood change. Its vision is to provide comprehensive support under one roof, ensuring residents can access a range of essential services in a seamless and inclusive environment close to home.

The site will serve Thorncliffe Park, a rapidly growing, high-density and multicultural neighbourhood in Toronto that is home to many families and newcomers, many of whom face health inequities and barriers to care.

The Hub’s model is guided by a shared and evidence-informed vision for primary healthcare as the foundation of our health system. This is a proven model for addressing health disparities and ensuring that everyone – even those facing significant barriers due to language, income, immigration status and other challenges – are able to access the right care they need in the right place.

### **Connecting residents to health and social services**

The Thorncliffe Park Community Hub is expected to open in Winter 2024. It will offer the following services:

#### **Health care**

- Health promotion, nutrition and education
- Homebound seniors visiting program
- Primary care, diagnostic imaging and specialists
- Prenatal, pregnancy and postpartum care
- Services for non-insured individuals
- Dental care

#### **Social care**

- Community resource access and event space
- Economic and community development
- Family (child, youth, senior) services
- Legal support and education
- Newcomer and immigration support
- Supports for people with disabilities

It is designed to keep community members better connected to a portfolio of medical and social initiatives that will support residents in living a more optimal and well-balanced life. This helps improve access to care in Thorncliffe Park, where a 2014 Health Care Gap Analysis indicated there are insufficient local health services given the population's size, complexity and diversity.

Undertaken by local organizations, residents and stakeholders, the analysis found that many people living in Thorncliffe Park are in poorer health than other Toronto residents. Social and economic conditions in the community such as high un(der)employment, isolation, language and cultural barriers, overcrowded living conditions and the stresses of resettlement contribute to the neighbourhood's health challenges.

The analysis concluded there is a need for comprehensive, coordinated primary healthcare that is responsive to the populations' unique health and social needs and integrated in the neighbourhood.

The Thorncliffe Park Community Hub is located upstairs from the Thorncliffe Park Youth Wellness Hub, another initiative of community partners in East Toronto, including TNO, FHC and MGH, that aims to better connect local health and social services. The Thorncliffe Park Community Hub is located in the former space of a COVID-19 immunization clinic, where community partners collaborated in May 2021 to deliver a record-breaking 10,000-plus doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to community members.

The Hub is being developed in collaboration with local grassroots group leaders and community members who are part of the Thorncliffe-Flemington Residents Council, which provides feedback, insights and support to ensure that the Hub, and similar initiatives, are responsive to local needs and emerging issues.



## Quotes

“Today’s groundbreaking represents a significant milestone for the Thorncliffe Park Community Hub project, which our government was proud to support. As East York continues to grow, this new Hub is going to be a critical link, helping to improve the mental and physical well-being of thousands of families, including at-risk families and newcomers to Ontario.”

### – **The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario**

“Our government is taking action to build a more connected and convenient healthcare system across the province. Thorncliffe Park Community Hub will provide people with convenient access to integrated health care services and is another example of how our government is getting shovels in the ground to ensure Ontarians can access the care they need, when they need it for years to come.”

### – **The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Ontario Minister of Health**

“Families in Thorncliffe deserve convenient access to community health and social services that help make life easier. The Thorncliffe Park Community Hub will support people by bringing together all these critical services under one roof. The City of Toronto is pleased to have contributed to making the hub possible, and we will continue to work as partners to make sure the Hub is a success so people in Thorncliffe Park can access the services they need.”

### – **Her Worship Olivia Chow, Mayor of Toronto**

“We are thrilled to celebrate the official groundbreaking of the Thorncliffe Park Community Hub. This milestone is the result of extensive planning, advocacy, and countless hours of visioning and effort from community members and partners. Once completed, the Hub will serve over 30,000 residents, providing accessible, integrated health and social services tailored to the unique social and cultural needs of the neighborhood’s diverse families.”

### – **Ahmed Hussein, CEO, TNO – The Neighbourhood Organization**

“This Hub will redefine healthcare in our community. Patients will gain seamless access to primary healthcare and a diverse team of health and social service professionals. By working in a team, our doctors, nurses and others will keep people well in our community. The Hub will address crucial social factors like mental health, language barriers and emphasize health equity. By working collaboratively, we ensure access to the right care, in the right place, by the right provider.”

### – **Jen Quinlan, CEO, Flemingdon Health Centre**

“Today’s groundbreaking is a significant step in our work as a hospital to bring care to the patients and communities we serve. This partnership plays a large role in ensuring that the residents of Thorncliffe Park can access healthcare and social services in their community.”

### – **Melanie Kohn, President and CEO, Michael Garron Hospital**

“The groundbreaking of the Thorncliffe Park Community Hub marks an exciting new chapter for our neighbourhood and represents the collective initiative and hard work of our community. It is hard to believe

that just last year we were in this space celebrating community events and planning for what it will look like, and now the planning has come to life. I want to thank

everyone who contributed to making this a reality and I look forward to seeing this Hub open as a key resource for the community.”

– **Hamza Shahid, Resident Co-Chair, Thorncliffe Park Community Hub Steering Committee**

### **About the Thorncliffe Park Community Hub**

The Thorncliffe Park Community Hub (TPCH) is a safe, accessible, multi-service and community-centered space where Thorncliffe Park residents can access health and social services, programs, and community spaces. The Hub will be designed to keep community members better connected to a portfolio of medical and social initiatives that will support residents in living a more optimal and well-balanced life. The core programs and services offered by the partners at TPCH will be for the health and well-being of the neighbourhood. As community needs change, appropriate services will be added or changed. Learn more at [thorncliffehub.org](https://thorncliffehub.org) .

