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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****NEW CULTURAL COMMUNITY LONG-TERM CARE HOME APPROVED IN MISSISSAUGA**

*Historic partnership will create a first-of-its kind home for seniors*

**April 27, 2018 (Mississauga, ON)** – Today, the Honourable Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance and Member of Provincial Parliament for Mississauga South announced the Government of Ontario will award 320 new long-term care beds in Mississauga to a new partnership between Indus Community Services (Indus), Trillium Health Partners (THP), and Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care (Yee Hong).

This announcement is part of the province's commitment to build 5,000 new long-term care beds by 2022 and more than 30,000 new beds over the next decade.

To address the region's long-term care capacity challenges, and to provide culturally appropriate care to the diverse community of Mississauga, Indus, THP and Yee Hong have come together to pursue a historic and innovative partnership to provide culturally appropriate long-term care with a specific focus on the Chinese, Asian and South Asian communities and transitional care. The partnership will leverage each organization's unique expertise including:

- Indus' 33 years of experience as the leading provider of culturally appropriate health programs and services for frail and at risk South Asian seniors.
- THP's experience in health service delivery for acute and complex patients, as one of the largest hospital organizations in the province.
- Yee Hong's experience as a long-term care home operator specializing in providing high-quality, culturally appropriate services to the Chinese and Asian communities.

The new long-term care home will also have transitional beds to reduce the number of Alternate Level of Care (ALC) patients waiting in hospital and community services to keep seniors healthy at home. The partnership will also conduct research, provide education and train new health care providers, and test new innovative approaches to long-term care.

The process of identifying a site for the new long-term care home and community hub is underway, with expected completion by 2022. This new care home and seniors' hub will provide a truly unique experience for residents and community members.

**QUICK FACTS:**

- Mississauga is the sixth largest city in Canada and the third largest in Ontario.
- Residents of South Asian and Asian descent make up over 30% of the population in Mississauga.
- The number of seniors in Mississauga is set to triple by 2031.
- The new home will consist of 320 long-term care beds including:
  - 128 beds focused on serving the South Asian community
  - 128 beds focused on serving the Chinese and Asian community
  - 64 short-stay transitional beds focus on transitioning residents home



- Community hub space with services that could include seniors day program, primary care, ambulatory care, retail space, community services, research, education and innovation

**QUOTES:**

*“Our government is improving health care in Mississauga and throughout Ontario by increasing the number of long-term care beds in our communities. This investment will help alleviate wait times, and provide better access to high-quality, culturally-appropriate professional care for seniors across the province.”*

Charles Sousa

Minister of Finance and MPP for Mississauga South

*“Mississauga is one of the most culturally diverse cities in the world. We are also home to an ageing population that deserves access to high-quality, culturally appropriate health care. That’s why I am so pleased that the provincial government will be partnering with Indus Community Services, Trillium Health Partners and Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care to build a new long-term care facility and community hub in Mississauga that will improve the overall health and well-being of seniors in our community.”*

Bonnie Crombie

Mayor of Mississauga

*“Indus Community Services is proud to be working alongside world renowned partners to establish the first ever South Asian focused Long-Term Care home in the region. Mississauga and Brampton have over 400,000 residents from the South Asian diaspora. This amazing partnership puts diversity into action by ensuring culturally appropriate services to a rapidly growing community. To continue to serve our seniors in the best way possible, Indus is committed to establishing more seniors housing and long-term care options in the years ahead.”*

Gurpreet S. Malhotra

Chief Executive Officer

Indus Community Services

*“Seniors are the fastest growing population in Ontario and often spend time waiting in hospital for long-term care in the community. In order to meet current and future health care needs of our Mississauga we are embarking on a truly unique partnership that leverages the rich diversity of our community and will allow every resident to age in a way that is truly meaningful to them.”*

Kathryn Hayward-Murray

Chief Nursing Executive and Senior Vice-President, Patient Care Services

Trillium Health Partners

*“While Canada is a young country, Canadians in general are getting older and living longer. With our partners, Yee Hong looks forward to providing innovative solutions and learning experiences to bring culturally appropriate care to the elderly community in Mississauga.”*

Tracy Jones

Chief Executive Officer

Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care



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**About Indus Community Services:**

Indus Community Services is an accredited, not-for-profit community benefit organization that has served local communities for over 32 years. Originally founded as India Rainbow, Indus Community Services, through its professional staff, is a leader in the provision of culturally appropriate services to South Asian seniors, newcomers, women and families. Indus Community Services person-centred Adult Day programs serve those who need support with their daily activities because of frailty, and those who are cognitively impaired.

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**About Trillium Health Partners:**

Trillium Health Partners is one of the largest community-based hospital systems in Canada. Comprised of Credit Valley Hospital, the Mississauga Hospital and the Queensway Health Centre, Trillium Health Partners serves the growing and diverse populations of Mississauga, West Toronto and surrounding communities. Trillium Health Partners is a teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Toronto and is an associate member of the Toronto Academic Health Science Network.

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**About Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care:**

Yee Hong is Ontario's largest non-profit long-term care home operator, delivering high-quality, culturally appropriate services to Chinese and other ethnic seniors since 1994. Operating 805 long-term care home beds and a wide range of community support services, Yee Hong annually serves over 15,000 individuals across the Greater Toronto Area.

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