



MEDIA RELEASE

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New Fundraising Goal up to \$8 Million to support The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre's Building on the Best Expansion

(Whitby, ON) – The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre (Best Centre) has declared an ambitious new campaign goal to raise \$8 million in support of their patients living with life-threatening type 1 diabetes. The Building on the Best Expansion Campaign launched in 2018 with an aim to raise funds to support the renovation and expansion of the Best Centre located in Whitby, Ontario.

With building community awareness and support throughout the pandemic years, the Best Centre has set a target date to break ground with phase 1 of the expansion this coming Fall. As the date is approaching quickly, the Best Centre is looking for support from the community and the province to reach their goal.

Durham Region's rapid growth in population has led to increased demand for all healthcare services, including the Best Centre's programs. Lorrie Hagen, Executive Director of The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre, emphasized the need for immediate expansion. "The demand for specialized type 1 diabetes healthcare and mental health support is increasing markedly, especially over the past decade. As we wait to get started with the on-site expansion, we are doing our best to keep up; hiring staff and maintaining excellent care – we need more space to continue this work."

The new goal of \$8 million will allow for the space needed to continue to provide the unique community-based healthcare services to the growing population. This change is reflective of increased costs seen across the construction industry throughout the pandemic. "Through our research of the construction landscape in the region and discussions with multiple partners, we have refined our project plan and budget to more closely align with the realities of today's environment of increased costs overall for labour and materials," said Serge Babin, Chairman of the Board of Directors at The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre. Frank Cerisano, CEO of FCM Network Inc. added, "many charities in Canada are dealing with the new norm of post pandemic pressures and increased capital costs on construction projects, labour and administration support."

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

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About the Building on the Best Expansion

The Building on the Best Expansion Campaign goal of \$8 million will allow for a renovation of the two existing structures and an additional structure. 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 children's play areas.

About The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre

The Best Centre delivers one-of-a-kind patient and family 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 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.
- Type 1 diabetes is an incurable, complex disease. It must be managed 24-hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year.
- Without insulin injections, death is certain.
- The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre sees 2,000 patients and conducts more than 28,000 healthcare interactions per year to support patients living with type 1 diabetes. This number is expected to double in the next decade.
- About 5-10 percent of people living with diabetes have type 1 diabetes, aka as insulin-dependent diabetes. Type 1 diabetes generally develops in childhood or adolescence but 25% is 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