

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **St. Joseph's Care Group Officially Opens Multiple Sclerosis Clinic**

(Thunder Bay, ON. May 24, 2007) The Official Opening of the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Clinic at St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) took place on May 24, 2007.

During his many regular visits to Thunder Bay to provide neurology consultations, Dr. William Brown realized there was a need in our region to provide more focused services to people living with MS. To respond to this need, Drs. Brown, Howse, Hargadon, and Malik, proposed the creation of an MS Clinic at the St. Joseph's Hospital site, to make services more accessible to people living in Northwestern Ontario.

The prevalence of MS in Northwestern Ontario is one of the highest in the world. In view of this, and considering the costs and other challenges for clients in our region to receive care in MS Clinics in Southern Ontario, the need for a full service MS Clinic in Thunder Bay was imperative. This clinic, sanctioned by the MS Society, and working in partnership with other MS Clinics, will allow us to participate in clinical trials and provide access to the newest treatments available for our clients.

One of St. Joseph's Care Group's strategic priorities is to provide client-centred care and to respond to the unique health care needs of specific populations. Tracy Buckler, President and CEO, St. Joseph's Care Group says, "The MS Clinic is a perfect example of how SJCG responds to an unmet need in the region. We have specially trained therapists/ nurses/physicians to assist people with the changes that take place as MS progresses. These specialized services are offered through various programs such as the Seating Clinic, the Neurology Day Program and the Continence Clinic."

St. Joseph's Care Group is pleased to have the MS Clinic as part of the Complex Care and Rehabilitation programs and services offered at St. Joseph's Hospital.

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For information call

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