

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WELLNESS PROGRAMS RECEIVE PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

(Thunder Bay, ON November 10, 2008) St. Joseph's Care Group was one of the recipients of the 2008 Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) "Healthy Hospital Innovators Award" presented at the OHA HealthAchieve Convention in Toronto on November 4, 2008.

This award has been developed in partnership with the National Quality Institute (NQI) and recognizes OHA member organizations for:

- Commitment to a long-term strategic approach for the development and sustainability of a healthy workplace and to becoming role models of healthy workplaces for their communities.
- Demonstrating willingness to participate in knowledge transfer on healthy workplace initiatives and effective practices within and outside the health sector.

Also, Michelle Knudson, Coordinator of Occupational Health Services, was awarded the "Who's Who in Workplace Health Award" at a recent awards ceremony in Toronto. Presented by Working Well Magazine, the award recognizes organizations and individuals who have made significant contributions to the health and well being of Canadian employees and their families.

Tracy Buckler, President & CEO, SJCG says, "Creating a positive, healthy, and respectful work environment for all of our staff is one of our organizational priorities. We are very proud of Michelle, the Wellness Committee, and all of our staff who commit to a healthy lifestyle".

Michelle received this award in recognition of her leadership and innovation in workplace wellness, health benefits plan design, disease management/health promotion that impacts the health and well being of our employees.

Bob Chambers, Chair, St. Joseph's Board of Directors, indicated that "These workplace wellness awards are strong indicators of the positive changes occurring at St. Joseph's Care Group. Having "Our People" clearly articulated as one of SJCG's Strategic Priorities has assisted in strengthening our commitment and focus on being recognized as an employer of choice".

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**St. Joseph's Hospital • St. Joseph's Heritage • Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital • Hogarth Riverview Manor • Balmoral Centre
St. Joseph's Health Centre • Behavioural Sciences Centre • Diabetes Health Thunder Bay • Sister Margaret Smith Centre**

St. Joseph's Care Group is accredited with Accreditation Canada and provides services in complex care, rehabilitation, mental health and addictions, long-term care and supportive housing. Community programs are provided at Frank Murphy Community Centre.

St. Joseph's Care Group has approximately 1700 employees and over 400 volunteers. With an annual operating budget of \$125M, SJCG is the fifth largest employer in Thunder Bay. To learn more about SJCG, visit the web site at www.sjcg.net