



## WEST OTTAWA OPIOID CLINIC OPENING SOON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Thursday, March 1, 2018** – Ottawa’s first west-end opioid treatment clinic has opened in Bell’s Corners.

Ottawa Recovery West will provide top level physician care and interaction, with two nurses and four doctors on staff. The physician team comes from the medical staff of nearby Queensway Carleton Hospital, and includes Dr. Sanjay Acharya, Dr. Bhaskar Gopalan, Dr. John MacDonald and Dr. Elizabeth Shouldice.

“We have seen patients with opioid addictions climb 116% in the last three years,” said Tom Schonberg, president and CEO of Queensway Carleton Hospital. “A group of our physicians have recognized this growing need and are taking steps to help the west-end community and provide people with the care they need closer to home.”

Ottawa Recovery West will offer a Rapid Assessment Clinic and Opioid Substitution Therapy. Clients are able to receive walk-in assessment, or call for an appointment. The clinic will also serve as a referral destination for patients who visit the QCH emergency department.

There is currently one other Recovery Ottawa addictions clinic in the city. This clinic is located in Vanier, in Ottawa’s east end. While the clinic was opened just six years ago, demand for services has risen dramatically during that time.

“We often talk about there being economic divides in Canada that impact health. What we were starting to also see was a geographic divide,” said Dr. Acharya. “We were seeing an East-end clinic as being a barrier for many people to get treatment. For some, it was a lengthy commute requiring multiple buses and lots of time off work. For others, it was stigma – that a clinic out in Vanier couldn’t possibly be for them. The truth is that opioid addiction doesn’t recognize age, wealth, education or any other demographic factors. It is indiscriminate. The patients we are seeing come from all walks of life, and this city needed more options to support them.”

Ottawa Recovery West will be open five days a week, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All services are covered under OHIP.

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