

For immediate release

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ST. JOE'S EARNS HIGHEST POSSIBLE QUALITY RATING FROM ACCREDITATION CANADA

Toronto ON – The start of the New Year is extra special at St. Joseph's Health Centre with the announcement that it has been **Accredited with Exemplary Standing** – the highest possible quality rating – by Accreditation Canada.

Accreditation Canada is a national organization that sets standards for quality and safety in healthcare and accredits organizations in Canada and around the world based on how well they meet those standards. After a review of the health centre's clinical and operational practices, Accreditation Canada announced that St. Joe's met or exceeded 99.9% of national quality standards and all 30 Required Organizational Practices, earning it Exemplary Standing.

"We could not think of a better of way to ring in the New Year. We are thrilled and honoured to be granted accreditation with exemplary standing through this highly-regarded quality program and proud that our work is making a real difference in advancing the health of our community," says Elizabeth Buller, President and CEO. *"We are equally proud of the efforts of our staff, physicians and volunteers make to ensure quality and safe patient care our top priority. They more than anyone deserve our gratitude for all that they do to support our patients, their families and our local communities."*

During their three-day onsite visit in December, the survey team from Accreditation Canada evaluated St. Joe's programs and services, reviewed policies and procedures against practices, and led a number of discussions with staff, physicians, volunteers, patients and families, as well as a focus group with community partners. Following their review, the survey team had notable praise for St. Joe's in a number of areas, including our collaborative approach to care and health system partnerships, our commitment to leading clinical and medical practices and our innovative approaches to teaching and education. You can read [the full report here](#).

"Participation in the accreditation program is an important part of our promise that we will always make quality patient care and experiences the centre of everything we do at St. Joe's," adds Ms. Buller. *"We look forward to continuing to engage our valued partners, our community, our patients and our people as we work together to advance the health of our community by being Canada's best community teaching health centre."*

The accreditation award is valid through to 2019.

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