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September 8, 2011

Shoppers Drug Mart Coming to Queen and Ossington

Forum Equity Partners and Verdicro Development Corporation have informed CAMH that Shoppers Drug Mart has agreed to be an anchor tenant for the new Ossington-Queen Street Rental Apartments, currently under construction at the southwest corner of Ossington Avenue and Queen Street West. We are awaiting confirmation of additional retail tenants for the project.

With CAMH's Queen Street Redevelopment Project well underway, this is good news for the initiative. CAMH, with local community involvement, planned this project with the vision of an integrated community that contributes to the revitalization of the community while creating a neighbourhood where our clients will feel welcome and at home.

An essential component of CAMH's vision of integrating our hospital site with the community is the inclusion of appropriate non-CAMH land uses alongside CAMH's new facilities, within a diverse, pedestrian-oriented, green community. With this in mind, Forum Equity Partners and Verdicro Development Corporation, award winning developers of affordable housing, were selected as the lessee/developer for this first non-CAMH building – the Ossington-Queen Street Rental Apartments. Their mixed-use development will have street-level retail shops, adding new vibrancy to the south side of Queen Street West. Above the shops, there will be seven floors of much-needed affordable, rental housing with 179 units, ranging from bachelors to three-bedroom apartments, for families, seniors, singles, and people with physical and mental challenges. Construction began in September 2010 and there is an expected occupancy date of early 2012.

Forum/Verdicro will ensure that this retail space at Queen Street West and Ossington Avenue conforms to the design guidelines for the West Queen West community, which means that Shopper's façade will respect the retail culture of Queen Street West. In addition, CAMH's Land Use Guidelines specify appropriate non-CAMH uses on our site.

CAMH will work with Forum/Verdicro, Shoppers Drug Mart, and other tenants to ensure that this new, mixed-use building is a welcoming place for CAMH clients and the wider CAMH community.