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June 22, 2011

CAMH Street Naming Announcement

CAMH is pleased to announce that it has received approval from the City of Toronto to **rename Freedom Street to Lower Ossington Avenue** and to apply the name **Stokes Street to 'New Street'**, which is the new street that will run south of Queen Street West, between White Squirrel Way and Shaw Street. Earlier this year, CAMH submitted the street naming proposals to the City of Toronto for review and approval.

With respect to the change from **Freedom Street to Lower Ossington Avenue**, it came to CAMH's attention that many within the CAMH community, especially our clients, expressed their distaste for this name. For clients who feel "trapped" by their addiction or mental illness and especially for those who are at CAMH involuntarily, the name is perceived to have a very cruel irony. This name change is also in keeping with CAMH's vision for the Queen Street Redevelopment Project of an integrated community.

Stokes Street now officially replaces New Street, in honour of Professor Aldwyn B. Stokes who held many notable positions within the field of psychiatry and is known as an important leader in the establishment of the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, which opened its doors in 1966. The Clarke was one of the four institutions that merged to form CAMH in 1998; the other three were the Addiction Research Foundation, the Donwood Institute, and the Queen Street Mental Health Centre.

As well, **Stokes Street** complements the nearby streets that have already been named in honour of the historic leaders in the area of addictions and mental health: Workman Way (named after the visionary medical superintendent of the original "Provincial Lunatic Asylum", which was the precursor of the Queen Street Mental Health Centre) and Gordon Bell Road (named after the pioneering addictions physician who founded the Donwood Institute).

With the naming of **New Street to Stokes Street**, CAMH is also pleased to announce **the winner of the CAMH Street Naming Contest. John Court** who is **CAMH's archivist** suggested Stokes Street in honour of the renowned Professor.

More than 170 people participated in this naming opportunity with many individuals submitting more than one name suggestion. CAMH would like to thank everyone for participating in this Street Naming Contest.