

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 28, 2025

Chinese Canadian Communities Demands Respect, Transparency and Accountability from UHN

7/28/2025/Toronto- RE-AIM Coalition demands respect and immediate actions from UHN to address the abrupt closure on June 18, 2025 of the Asian Initiative in Mental Health (AIM) without consultation with patients, community partners, and internal staff.

Founded in 2002 by Dr. Kenneth P. Fung and Dr. Peter Lim, AIM is an innovative patient centred and community-engaged model, highly recognized nationally and internationally, for providing an effective and culturally safe continuum of care to prevent re-hospitalization and promote patient resilience and recovery with dignity. AIM is not only critical to addressing unmet mental health needs of Chinese Canadian communities in the Greater Toronto Area, it is also an invaluable site for education and training.

Sharing common concerns and goals, a group of healthcare and service providers, community leaders, community organizations, patient advocates, EDI advocates, donors, and academics have formed the RE-AIM Coalition. On July 15, 2025, five of its members including Dr. Joseph Wong (founder of Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care and Harmony Movement) and Justin Poy (Honorary Patron of Asian Heritage Month) wrote to and requested a meeting with Dr. Kevin Smith, UHN CEO to dialogue and co-create a solution to restore AIM that will advance the hospital's strategic directions and benefit the community. To date, there has been no response from Dr. Smith.

"Chinese Canadians feel snubbed and slighted by UHN by its abrupt closure of AIM without any consultation and the lack of response from its CEO to the request for a dialogue," said Dr. Ted Lo, spokesperson RE-AIM Coalition.

"Chinese Canadians have historically and continually been subjected to the racist stereotypes of "perpetual foreigners". It is deeply troubling that our largest academic health care institution seems to be sending the same message to Chinese Canadians that we do not belong and therefore can be easily dismissed and disposed," said Dr. Josephine Wong, spokesperson, RE-AIM Coalition.

The RE-AIM Coalition demands the following:

- An immediate response from Dr. Kevin Smith to the meeting request from the five Chinese community advocacy and academic leaders;
- The immediate reinstatement of AIM; and
- A cross-sector consultation forum to discuss UHN's commitment to revitalizing access to culturally safe and competent community psychiatric / mental health care for Chinese, Portuguese, and other racialized communities

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