



News Release

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**Ornge prepares to answer the call  
*Muskoka summer base opens at airport, May 15, 2009***

TORONTO, ON – Ornge, Ontario’s transport medicine service, is announcing the opening of its temporary summer base at the Muskoka airport in preparation for the annual increase in call volumes from Muskoka and the surrounding areas.

Ornge is committed to providing quality transport medicine services to the residents of Ontario. “As the temperatures increase so do the number of trauma calls,” said Dr. Chris Mazza, Ornge president and chief executive officer. “We’ve found by relocating one of our Toronto-based flight paramedic crews we are able to shorten response times and therefore improve patient care.”

The warmer weather brings visitors and summer residents to the Muskoka region. This seasonal influx of people results in an increase in calls to Ornge originating from the Muskoka area. Since 2003, Ornge has temporarily relocated one of its Toronto-based helicopters and paramedic crews to cottage country to enable quick response to seasonally higher call volumes.

“The primary goal of the Ornge medical team is to provide all Ontarians with access to the quality patient care they deserve,” Mazza said. “Experience has shown us our temporary relocation to Muskoka in the summer months enables faster response to the seasonal increase in call volumes.” The first 60 minutes or ‘golden hour’ are crucial in cases of trauma, making shorter response times essential.

**ABOUT ORNGE**

Ornge operates from a number of bases across the province of Ontario and performs more than 18,000 admissions annually. It coordinates all aspects of Ontario’s aero medical transport system, the new critical care land transport program, and the authorization of air and land ambulance transfers between hospitals. Ornge is dedicated to the provision of high quality patient care through innovative transport medicine.

