



NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Health Services
Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA)
Capital Regional Hospital District

LAST BRICKS LAID AT NEW RJH PATIENT CARE CENTRE

VICTORIA – The opening of the \$349-million Royal Jubilee Hospital Patient Care Centre, which will generate the best in patient care for generations to come, moved one step closer today with the laying of the final bricks. Local MLAs joined the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) and Capital Regional Hospital District (CRHD) today to place the final three bricks in the exterior of the new 500-bed hospital.

“Each new construction milestone brings us closer to the opening of Canada’s most environmentally responsible acute care hospital,” said Ida Chong, MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head. “When complete, the Patient Care Centre will create a healing environment using the highest standards in infection control design and practices so that patients get the best care possible.”

About 700 local workers are putting the finishing touches on the 38,000-square-metre Patient Care Centre (PCC), which will replace some of the aging buildings on the campus, including the south and centre blocks, which were built in the 1920s and 1930s. The PCC façade is clad with more than 430,000 bricks, thousands of cement composite tiles in three different shades, and glassed curtain wall assemblies.

“The state-of-the-art centre will provide patients on Vancouver Island with the best health care possible, as well as attracting staff with learning opportunities, intuitive design and improved work space,” said Murray Coell, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands.

The PCC will be the first Pacific Green hospital in Canada. A Pacific Green building supports environmental sustainability through its efficient use of energy, focus on water conservation, and in the selection of its building materials. Six hundred and seventy windows, most of them opening, let natural light in to over 90 per cent of the interior floor space. The increased use of green space, access to natural light, natural ventilation, and the provision of alternative transportation opportunities will address the overall health outcomes of patients and health-care providers.

“Construction crews have been working around the clock to build a facility that will improve patient care and the working environment for our staff,” said Jac Kreut, VIHA board chair. “This is an exciting milestone and I couldn’t be more pleased with the way this project has progressed.”

More than 80 per cent of the rooms will be single-bed patient rooms with private bathrooms, allowing for family visits and stays, and reducing hospital-acquired infection rates. The spacious rooms will be easily adaptable to different levels of care, decreasing the need to move patients and resulting in fewer infections and falls. Background noise will be reduced using sound-absorbing flooring, ceiling and walls, and wider hallways with effective way-finding to help patients with cognitive impairment.

“This is a community investment in care and a commitment to our future,” said Graham Hill, CRHD chair and mayor of View Royal. “This building is the outcome of tens of thousands of individual decisions and is a splendid example of partnership in action.”

The PCC is a public-private partnership between VIHA and ISL Health. ISL Health is responsible for the design, building, financing and maintenance of the world-class facility. VIHA will retain ownership of the building and provide all health and medical services.

The new facility is on schedule for completion in December 2010, and the first patients are expected to move to the site in March 2011.

Over the next three years, British Columbia’s health-care system will benefit from investments such as the PCC as part of a \$2.3-billion health-sector capital plan.

For more information on the project, visit: http://www.viha.ca/patient_care_centre/

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