



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2009

NEW RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY IN NANAIMO

NANAIMO – Good Samaritan Canada Wexford Creek Campus of Care, Nanaimo's new \$30.5 million facility with 110 residential care beds, is now fully functioning with many Nanaimo area residents now calling this home.

Representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA), and Good Samaritan Canada were on hand to participate in the ceremony.

"Nanaimo residents now have more options when planning for their long term care needs," said Nanaimo-Parksville MLA Ron Cantelon. "These additional beds are part of our government's commitment to create 5,000 net-new beds and units, providing the best possible health-care options for seniors."

All 110 residential care beds are publicly funded by the Vancouver Island Health Authority, providing approximately \$6.4 million in annual funding. The new facility offers private rooms and 24/7 health care services for individuals with complex care needs.

"Enhancing access to seniors care is a top priority for the Vancouver Island Health Authority, particularly in Central Island where we have a large seniors population," said Jac Kreut, VIHA board chair. "By working in partnership with the community, local government and the Province, we are significantly increasing our community care capacity, which will help reduce pressure on our hospitals, and the emergency departments."

The contract to build and operate the facility, located at 80-90 10 Street in Nanaimo, was awarded in July 2006 to Good Samaritan Canada, a voluntary, not-for profit care provider that has designed and built a number of housing projects across Canada.

"The Good Samaritan Society is proud to offer care services to the people of Nanaimo and surrounding area. It is a responsibility we take seriously and we are honoured that the community has entrusted us with delivering care to those in need", said Carla Gregor, President and CEO of the Good Samaritan Society.

Find out more at: www.viha.ca/news

Page 1 of 2

The Province has exceeded its commitment to provide 5,000 net-new residential care beds, assisted living and supportive housing units by December 2008. Across the province, more than 11,750 new beds and units have been built – with a large portion replacing beds that were old and unsuitable for complex care. This includes more than 5,424 net-new beds and units.

– 30 –

Contact:

Anya Nimmon
VIHA Communications, Central Island
250-740-6980

Joanne Dusterbeck
VP of Communications, The Good Samaritan Society
780-431-3706