

Backgrounder

The Academic Ambulatory Care Centre (AACC) *Highlights of the New Facility*

- The Academic Ambulatory Care Centre (AACC) will be an 11-storey, 365,000 square foot health care facility on the site of Vancouver General Hospital (VGH), ready for occupancy in 2006.
- Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) will make annual payments over 30 years to lease 216,000 sq. feet of space, and then assume ownership of the building at the end of 30 years, at no additional cost. Excavation will take place in the fall of 2004 with construction to be completed in summer 2006.
- The facility, with an estimated capital cost of \$95 million, will be delivered through a partnership agreement between VCH, the public sector partner responsible for the Vancouver General Hospital, and Access Health Vancouver (AHV) which is a team of companies with demonstrated expertise in building, operating and maintaining health-related facilities.
- The AACC will benefit an estimated 600,000 patients annually and support several hundred medical students and approximately 500 medical and allied professionals.
- The state-of-the-art facility will feature the latest efficiency and design advancements in ambulatory care based on best practices in patient-centred care in academic environments demonstrated worldwide.
- The AACC will coordinate VGH's ambulatory patient care services – including specialty clinics, along with medical education, physician teaching clinics and research – at one site and will enhance patient care, access and scheduling by allowing easier coordination of multiple specialist visits, clinic visits and diagnostic testing for patients.
- As a valuable part of VCH's commitment to medical education, the centralized facility will enable the University of British Columbia's (UBC) Faculty of Medicine students to gain increased interaction between academics, researchers and practising clinicians.
- The AACC, through the UBC Faculty of Medicine, will accommodate academic teaching functions in a clinical setting with lecture rooms, seminar rooms, a library and clinical teaching rooms.
- VCH will gain access to much needed medical office, clinical and teaching space, enabling hundreds of students and health professionals to work together in a leading academic facility.

- The site design will be flexible to accommodate evolving teaching and healthcare requirements. Patient/client services will likely include physician offices, specialist clinics, and diagnostic centres. VCH will be the major tenant in the building. Any commercial or retail space leased – less than five percent - will support the patient care and academic focus of the building.
- A legally binding redevelopment plan between VGH and the City of Vancouver as of December 2001 requires the demolition of nine buildings – six of which are on the VGH site and currently house existing academic facilities. Among the buildings to be replaced by the new AACC are Heather Pavilion North, the Pathology Building, the Doctor’s Residence, and the Women’s Residence. The heritage component of Heather Pavilion will be preserved as part of the redevelopment.
- The VGH site redevelopment plan was approved by the City of Vancouver in 2001 as part of a public hearing process.

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