
NEWS RELEASE

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Office of the Premier
Ministry of Health Services

PREMIER OPENS NEW ABBOTSFORD HOSPITAL AND CANCER CENTRE

ABBOTSFORD – Premier Gordon Campbell and Health Services Minister George Abbott celebrated a milestone in the history of health care in British Columbia today with the official opening of the new Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre.

“Today marks the completion of the single largest health-care capital investment in the history of our province,” said Premier Campbell. “Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre is the first new regional hospital to be opened in British Columbia in over 30 years. This innovative new facility has been completed on-time and on-budget, and will help to ensure that patients receive quality health care closer to home.”

The hospital opened its doors to patients on Aug. 24 and the cancer centre began treating patients on Aug. 25.

“The success of the Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre project has served as the foundation for future investments in health-care infrastructure,” said Abbott. “All across the province, we are investing billions of dollars on new and expanded health facilities and hospitals to improve access to services and reduce wait times.”

The Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre is also the first cancer centre in Western Canada to be integrated into a hospital from the ground up.

"I am very happy for the people of Abbotsford and the Fraser Valley that this beautiful new hospital is now a reality," said Abbotsford-Clayburn MLA John van Dongen. "Special thanks to everyone who championed its construction and all the doctors, nurses and other hospital staff who will provide leading edge health services for all citizens".

“This is a wonderful day, a day that we have been waiting 25 years for,” said Mike de Jong, MLA for Abbotsford-Mount Lehman. “This historic day is the culmination of a promise our government made and followed through on. Seeing this dream become a reality and the patients being served by the dedicated staff in this new facility represents a highlight of my political career,” added the 15-year veteran of provincial politics.

“The 300-bed Abbotsford Regional Hospital is a world-class facility that will help meet our growing health-care needs in the eastern Fraser Valley,” said Dr. Nigel Murray, CEO of Fraser Health. “As a regional hospital, this facility will provide new and specialized services such as neonatal intensive care and adolescent psychiatric care.”

“We designed international best practices into our emergency department and these are reflected in our two open trauma bays, and separate areas for pediatric, mental health, and geriatric specialists,” said Dr. Reginald Peters, emergency medical director, Abbotsford Regional Hospital. “With state-of-the-art

equipment, our committed team of physicians, nurses, and volunteers can provide enhanced emergency services to patients from Abbotsford and neighbouring residents in the Fraser Valley.”

“Cancer outcomes in B.C. are among the best in Canada,” said Wynne Powell, chair of the PHSA board of directors. “The opening of the new BC Cancer Agency Abbotsford Centre brings with it the very latest technology for cancer care and treatment and the benefits from this will be evident throughout the region and across the province.”

“The Abbotsford Centre is an integral part of the agency’s provincial cancer control system, providing care and research for the people of B.C.,” said Dr. Simon Sutcliffe, president of the BC Cancer Agency, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority. “The new cancer centre will improve access to care for people with cancer in the Fraser Valley and treat up to 2,500 patients a year.”

“Residents of the Fraser Valley have demonstrated the importance they place on health care by contributing \$71.3 million towards the construction and equipment cost of Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre,” said George Ferguson, chair of the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District and mayor of the City of Abbotsford. “Their generosity will ensure that residents across the region will benefit from leading-edge technology in a modern facility.”

The hospital and cancer centre is 60,000 square metres, nearly three times the physical size of the MSA Hospital. The facility has been designed and constructed to minimize the impact on the natural environment and the facility is expected to consume nearly 40 per cent less energy compared to a Model National Energy for Buildings-compliant hospital. The savings in carbon dioxide emissions will be approximately 3,100 tons a year and the cost savings nearly \$500,000 a year.

The Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre is a public-private partnership involving the Ministry of Health Services, Fraser Health, Provincial Health Services Authority/BC Cancer Agency, Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District, Partnerships BC and AHA Access Health Abbotsford Ltd. All health care services will be provided by the health authorities and AHA Access Health Abbotsford Ltd. is responsible for providing facilities management services.

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2 backgrounder(s) attached.

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