
BACKGROUND

2007HEALTH0052-000566
May 4, 2007

Ministry of Health

VJH DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT BUILDING

Vernon Jubilee Hospital (VJH) provides hospital services to residents of the North Okanagan.

Facilities include:

- 125 acute care beds and 12 sub acute beds;
- 24-hour emergency service;
- General medicine, surgery, maternity, orthopedics, pediatrics; and,
- Laboratory and diagnostic imaging.

VJH is comprised of buildings dating from 1947 to 1981.

The emergency and intensive care areas are both operating with 50 per cent of the space necessary for their volume, and only one of the four operating rooms is appropriately sized for major surgeries. Ambulatory care services are dispersed throughout the facility resulting in inefficient delivery of health services.

Interior Health's plans for a new diagnostic and treatment building will consolidate a series of programs and services in a new building to improve health service delivery.

The proposed multi-storey structure will be situated adjacent to the existing building on the southeast corner of the VJH site. The new Diagnostic and Treatment Building (DTB) will include the:

- Emergency Department
- Ambulatory Care Centre
- Surgical Services
- Maternity and Pediatrics
- Intensive Care/Cardiac Care and;
- Central Sterilization Services

The schematic design was completed in March 2007. Interior Health has recommended procuring the VJH diagnostic and treatment building as a public-private partnership in conjunction with a similar procurement process for the Kelowna General Hospital Ambulatory Care Centre and Emergency Department building.

Project timelines for the project include procurement in 2007, construction in 2008 and completion in 2010.

Interior Health recently completed a \$1-million renovation to expand the existing emergency room and outpatient department until the new building opens. This renovation expanded the Emergency Room area by approximately 3,320 sq. ft. and included:

- Adding a second trauma room;
- Extending the existing trauma room by approximately one third; and,
- Increasing the diagnostic imaging room by approximately 40 per cent.

The renovation also relocates the outpatient department, doubling its original size adding additional nurses' stations, a cast room, IV therapy room, and pacemaker room. Overall, Interior Health will increase the patient care areas from 16 to 26.

On completion of the diagnostic and treatment facility, the IHA plans to do further improvements to VJH in the coming years including replacing inpatient beds, establish parking in compliance with municipal requirements, and the removal of the old hospital buildings.

Media contact: Cathy Renkas
Interior Health Communications
250 862-7228

Marisa Adair
Communications Director, Ministry of Health
250 920-8500
250 952-1887 (media line)

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.