



NEWS RELEASE

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GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY IN CAMPBELL RIVER

CAMPBELL RIVER – Construction of a new \$18-million residential care facility is one step closer to reality with the official groundbreaking ceremony for the project held today on the building site of the future New Horizons Community of Care in Campbell River.

Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) will fund 86 of the new residential care beds for seniors in Campbell River who need around the clock health care.

“By the end of June 2008, Campbell River seniors who require long-term care will be able to call this new facility ‘home’”, announced Comox Valley MLA Stan Hagen. “As part of our government’s commitment to create 5000 new beds and units for British Columbia seniors by 2008, this facility will help ensure the best quality of life possible for residents requiring complex care, and meet current provincial standards.”

The new facility will offer private rooms and provide 24/7 healthcare services for individuals with complex care needs. New Horizons Care Corporation will build and operate the new facility, and VIHA will provide annual operating funding of \$5.1 million for 86 beds, six of which will be designated for residents with mental health needs. Eight beds will be reserved for private pay residents.

“Enhancing access to seniors’ care is a top priority for the Vancouver Island Health Authority, particularly in communities like Campbell River that are growing and have an aging 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 at busy hospitals such as the Campbell River Hospital.”

“We’re so pleased to be able to offer a facility that will allow seniors in Campbell River to continue living in their community with dignity while also having access to high quality long-term care,” said Mike Conroy, VIHA’s Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. “And we welcome this new partnership with New Horizons Care Corporation. We look forward to a long and productive relationship with them.”

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

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“New Horizons Community of Care will provide complex care to Campbell River seniors while still ensuring all of the comforts of home,” said Jonathan Brenner, Executive Director, New Horizons Care Corporation. “This is a “living” facility where the focus is living the highest quality of life within one’s functional abilities. I may be part owner and the Administrator of the facility, but I will be merely a guest in **their** home!”

The contract to build and operate the facility, located at 1449 16th Avenue in Campbell River, was awarded in June 2006 to New Horizons, a private operator in partnership with Central Care Corporation, a private company that operates a network of residential care, retirement residences and supportive services throughout Canada and the United States.

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