



PRESS RELEASE



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Seniors and Young Adults Benefit from Assisted Living

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, November 1, 2006 — A new \$20 million assisted living development for Vancouver seniors and young adults with disabilities was celebrated today with a groundbreaking attended by federal, provincial and municipal government representatives.

The new assisted living development, previously St. Vincent's Hospital, is located at 33rd Avenue and Heather Street. The development, operated by Providence Health Care, will provide affordable housing and care for seniors and young adults who require some support services but wish to maintain their independence. The units are funded under Independent Living BC (ILBC), a partnership between the federal and provincial governments, local health authorities, non-profit groups and the private sector.

"Canada's New Government is working closely with our partners to support the Vancouver area and its many community projects," said the Honourable David Emerson, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver – Whistler Olympics, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development. "This development will enable seniors and young adults with disabilities to continue to live close to their family and friends and enjoy a high quality of life."

Lorne Mayencourt, MLA for Vancouver – Burrard said these units are part of the government's commitment to provide 5,000 residential care beds, assisted living units and supportive housing units with home support by the end of 2008.

"This assisted living development is unique in that it will house both seniors and young adults with disabilities together," said Mayencourt. "The Province is committed to finding innovative ways to provide housing and care options to our most vulnerable citizens and this is a way for us to do just that, while in addition enabling multiple generations to live together on one site. I think a lot of good can come from that."

The assisted living units will be self-contained apartments with a 24-hour response system. Residents will receive personal care services, such as recreational opportunities and assistance with medications, housekeeping, meals, and laundry services. Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) will subsidize the personal care and hospitality services.

"We are excited to be a part of this development as it supports our vision of creating a full range of options for seniors and maximizing independence, while providing the appropriate level of care to meet individual needs," said Maureen Whyte, chief operating officer, Vancouver Coastal Health.

Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan added that the development of the assisted living building, which included the demolition of St. Vincent's Hospital, was done with an eye towards sustainability.

"I would like to congratulate Providence for being so creative in their approach to the development of this first phase of housing on the old hospital site," said Sullivan. "In addition to providing much-needed housing for seniors and youth with disabilities, this project is a model of sustainability due to the fact that many of the previous structures were

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recycled into the new development.”

“To help meet the Ministry of Health’s and VCH’s goals, Providence’s long-term vision for this site is to develop a campus of care — facilities that provide a broad range of elder-care services, enabling seniors to age in place rather than have to move as their care needs increase,” said Dianne Doyle president & CEO of Providence Health Care. “Providence voluntarily closed St. Vincent’s Hospital so we could innovatively redevelop the site and renew the mission of the Sisters of Charity who founded the hospital.”

The Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, through the ILBC program, are committed to providing 4,000 affordable assisted living apartments across the province. To date, more than 3,500 ILBC units have been allocated in communities across B.C.

Today’s announcement reflects the B.C. government’s goal of providing the best system of support in Canada for seniors.

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Backgrounder

Providence Health Care Society — St. Vincent’s Heather Living Residence

Completion of the new Providence assisted living development is estimated for spring 2008. The four-storey wood frame structure will have a total of 68 units of assisted living housing, with 60 units designated for seniors’ apartments, and eight units for young adults with disabilities. The seniors’ units will occupy the top three floors, and the ground floor will house young adults.

Tenants of the eight units occupied by young disabled adults will pay rent based on BC Rent Scale, and seniors will pay 70 per cent of after-tax income. BC Housing and Vancouver Coastal Health will subsidize all 68 units under the Independent Living BC program (ILBC).

Partners and Funding

Total cost of the development is \$20.635 million

- The Government of Canada, through CMHC, is providing a \$1.7 million capital grant.
- The Province, through BC Housing, is providing housing subsidies of \$11 million over 35 years.
- VCH will provide \$950,000 annual operating grant for the personal care and hospitality services for the 60 units of housing for seniors, as well as annual funding to support tenants in the eight units for young disabled adults.

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- The City of Vancouver has waived development cost charges at a value of \$102,339.
- The society has provided the land valued at more than \$5 million.
- The St. Vincent's & Holy Family Health Care Foundation has provided a \$1.5 million grant.