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Williams Lake Benefits from Added Residential Beds

Williams Lake – Interior Health is pleased to announce additional services for seniors care in Williams Lake, including funding for 11 more residential care beds at Williams Lake Seniors Village and four additional seniors-oriented beds at Cariboo Memorial Hospital – two for convalescent care and two serving as permanent transitional beds.

As well, two palliative care beds currently located at CMH will be moved to a more suitable location, at Williams Lake Seniors Village.

“Today’s announcement goes beyond what was previously committed and I’m confident this will help meet both current and future needs for seniors care in the Williams Lake area,” said Health Minister George Abbott. “When this facility opens, these 44 new residential care beds will count towards government’s commitment to build a net new 5000 residential care, assisted living and supportive housing units across British Columbia by December 2008.

In 2001 Williams Lake had a total of 105 beds for seniors. With today’s announcement, the total is 132 beds.

Under the current expansion to Williams Lake Seniors Village, 33 of the new beds were initially designated as IH-funded; the remainder private-pay. Today’s announcement means all of the facility’s new 44 residential beds will now be subsidized, and brings the total number of residential units contracted with Retirement Concepts to 113, which includes the two palliative care beds to be moved from the hospital. This is on top of the 15 subsidized assisted living suites also offered through Williams Lake Seniors Village.

“These additional beds were always part of our long-term plan for Williams Lake, but I’m thrilled to say we are able to provide them that much sooner. They will be open, along with the rest of the expansion, early next year,” said Claire Ann Brodie, Director of Home and Community Care with the Thompson Cariboo Shuswap Health Service Area.

Through funding provided by Interior Health, Retirement Concepts has been providing support for seniors in Williams Lake for the past two years. Assisted living suites offer added support for the resident requiring some assistance with daily activities, such as with meals, housekeeping and personal care, but not 24-hour professional nursing attention. Residential care provides the next level of support, for people with complex health needs that require around-the-clock nursing care.

“When we opened our doors to clients two years ago, we also opened our doors to this community. Through our open houses, tours, and other events, the community has been able to see the excellent quality of care we provide,” said Azim Jamal, president of Retirement Concepts. “At Williams Lake Seniors Village we are fortunate to have a great team of highly-qualified staff who provide a comfortable, home-like environment for our residents within groupings of private rooms forming their own mini-neighbourhoods, complete with country-style kitchens and recreational areas.”

Further to the new residential beds at Seniors Village, two palliative care beds currently located at Cariboo Memorial Hospital will be added.

“This move is important as it will provide for a more appropriate, more private setting for those needing end-of-life care,” said Brodie.

Today’s announcement will see residents from Deni House move to the newer facilities at Williams Lake Seniors Village upon completion, and also the placement of seniors in the community who have been waiting for a residential care bed.

When Deni House was opened in May it was to serve as a temporary transitional facility – acting as an interim solution to the challenges experienced at that time – until newer facilities were ready. With the pending completion of the Williams Lake Seniors Village, and the additional IH-funded beds announced today, that purpose will have been met.

A transition team has been put in place to assist Deni House residents, their families, and staff through this process. After residents have been moved, Interior Health will explore various options for the future use of Deni House.

For more information:

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