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Sod Turned for Pleasant Valley Manor Expansion in Armstrong

ARMSTRONG – Minister of Health George Abbott joined Interior Health and community officials today to celebrate the groundbreaking of the expansion to Pleasant Valley Manor, a seniors' care facility for the community of Armstrong.

"Expansion of Pleasant Valley Manor with additional residential care beds will help ensure Armstrong residents have the best available health services as they age," said Abbott. "The additional 42 new residential care beds are part of our government's commitment to provide 5,000 residential care beds and assisted living units across British Columbia by 2008."

Forty-two residential care beds are being added to Pleasant Valley Manor in Armstrong, bringing the total number of residential care beds upon completion to 82. Residential care is for seniors who can no longer live independently, and need around-the-clock nursing care in a home-like environment. The standards include full wheelchair accessibility, appropriate space for clients and caregivers, and the ability to include patient lifts and other support devices.

The two-story cottage style addition will have two nine-bed houses and two 12-bed houses. Each of these houses will be self-contained with dining and lounge areas, and laundry facilities. All residents will have private bedrooms and washrooms.

"We know there is a need for more residential beds in this community, and I'm pleased we're able to celebrate turning this vision into a reality today," said Interior Health Board Chairman Alan Dolman. "Partnering with the Regional Hospital District on this project makes this a strong community-based initiative."

The total project cost for the 42 additional beds is estimated to be \$10.2 million. Forty percent of the funding for this expansion is being provided by the North Okanagan Columbia Shuswap Regional Hospital District (NOCSRHD), with the Government of British Columbia, through Interior Health, funding the remaining 60 percent.

