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### **New Beds Offer New Options for Grand Forks Seniors**

Featuring more beds in a spacious, elder-friendly environment, the new Hardy View Lodge offers expanded opportunity for Grand Forks seniors to remain in their community, Health Services Minister George Abbott said today at the official grand opening of the new \$13 million Interior Health facility.

“It’s great to be here today at this beautiful new facility to see first-hand how our investment in health care is working for seniors across the province,” said Abbott, who was joined by Interior Health Board members, lodge residents and staff, and community members. “These new beds for Grand Forks seniors are an important part of our commitment to building 5,000 net-new beds and units across the province by the end of 2008, providing best health-care options for our aging population.”

Hardy View Lodge contains 60 new rooms, plus 20 rooms from the former Sunshine Manor, bringing total residential care beds for Grand Forks to 80. The rooms are in five wings, allowing Interior Health to meet the specific needs of residential care clients who live at Hardy View. Residents moved into the new IH-built and operated facility earlier this summer.

The facility offers spacious rooms with private showers, new kitchens, large and comfortable areas for dining and recreation, and great open courtyards. The centre courtyard even features a classic 1948 Chevrolet, brought into the centre courtyard prior to the end of construction by the IH health service administrator. This special addition and other unique features, large and small, are a big hit with residents.

Interior Health funded 60 per cent of the new facility and upgrades and the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District contributed the other 40 per cent.

“Being here today is definitely one of the highlights of our visit to Grand Forks for the Interior Health board meeting,” said Norman Embree, IH Board Chair. “A true community effort made this wonderful facility possible and I’d like to thank and congratulate everyone who contributed – particularly our residents and staff for their patience during the construction and renovations.”

“This facility is a great example of how important it is for all our Kootenay-Boundary communities to work together through the Regional Hospital District to care for our residents. I’m happy to be here today to be part of this great celebration,” said Lawrence Chernoff, Regional Hospital District Chair.

In addition to building the new facility, Interior Health did extensive renovations to the 20 Sunshine Manor rooms that were integrated into Hardy View Lodge – boosting capacity of the old Hardy View to 80 from 70.

“From the local artwork to the wide, open spaces, I believe we have achieved our goal of creating a home for Grand Forks seniors that truly feels like a home,” said Carol Markowsky, IH Chief Operating Officer for the

Kootenay Boundary. “Along with the assisted living and home support, these new beds build on the choices Interior Health is offering seniors in the Kootenay Boundary.”

These new units are part of the British Columbia government’s commitment to provide 5,000 net-new residential care beds, assisted living units and supportive housing with home support units by the end of 2008. To date, 10,135 new and replacement beds and units have been built, including 4,538 net-new. British Columbia's health system will benefit from more investments like this over the next three years as part of government's \$2.7-billion health sector capital plan.