

For Immediate Release | November 29, 2017

Construction begins on The Hamlets residential care expansion project

KAMLOOPS – A new project is underway that will support more seniors and those with complex needs who are not able to live independently. Today, Interior Health and H&H Total Care Services Inc. marked the launch of construction on a 48-bed expansion to The Hamlets at Westsyde, a residential care home located in Kamloops.

“The Hamlets at Westsyde are a big part of the services available to seniors living with dementia and people with complex health issues in Kamloops,” says Health Minister Adrian Dix. “And now, through this expansion project, the 48 new publicly funded beds will provide a safe, caring place for more people in the community.”

“Interior Health is committed to expanding care options for seniors, and for people needing care that they can no longer receive at home,” says Doug Cochrane, Interior Health Board Chair. “These 48 new beds will give people in Kamloops access to more options for complex care in a setting that is close to their home and families.”

Following a competitive procurement process, Interior Health awarded a contract in March 2017 for the development of 48 residential care beds in Kamloops to H&H Total Care Services Inc. The beds will be opened through an expansion to The Hamlets at Westsyde, a 112-bed residential care facility that opened in 2007 in Kamloops.

These 48 new beds will be placed in a second phase on the property, to the rear of the existing building, and will bring the total capacity to 160 beds (of which 14 are private pay). Construction is now getting underway, with the new beds expected to open in winter 2018-19.

The Hamlets provides 24/7 professional care and services including personal care, such as assistance with activities of daily living and medication management; care for seniors in the moderate to advanced stages of dementia; and, care for physically frail seniors. Features of the expansion will also include two snoezelen rooms, providing multisensory therapy for people with dementia or brain injury; a specially equipped room designed for bariatric residents; enhanced infection control measures; and, a new recreation area featuring an outdoor lounge and walking loop as a safe, secure space for residents with cognitive decline.

“It’s very important to us that we create a healthy, happy community – both within The Hamlets itself, and through involvement with the Westsyde neighbourhood in which we reside. We know this helps seniors live healthier, happier and more fulfilling lives,” says Andre Van Ryk, CEO of H&H Total Care Services. “We are excited to continue our partnership with Interior Health on this important investment in seniors care, providing much-needed services and additional full-time employment in the Kamloops region.”

The development of a total of 243 new residential care beds – including the 48 in Kamloops – was announced in September 2016, through a competitive procurement process for communities across Interior Health.

Today, Interior Health funds 5,836 residential care beds, providing 24/7 care and support for people with complex care needs who are no longer able to live independently or with supports. This includes

people who have been assessed as needing 24-hour professional nursing supervision and care needs that cannot be adequately met in the client's home or by housing and health services, and frail and elderly individuals with chronic conditions, such as those with dementia, whose needs may change over time.

In response to an aging, more medically complex population, new beds will be opened in facilities with safe, home-like environments that are appropriate to care for people with dementia and other chronic conditions and for adults with medically complex health-care needs including neurological diseases and acquired brain injuries.

The new and expanded care homes will also provide culturally safe settings, achieved by working with the local indigenous community.

“In The Hamlets at Westsyde, I am certain that H&H Total Care Services will be creating a beautiful addition to their existing property with a care model that supports the needs of residents, and includes them, their families, and their local physicians and health-care team in care delivery planning,” says Cindy Kozak-Campbell, Interior Health’s executive director for Residential Services. “We are pleased to be working with H&H and its team at The Hamlets to open this new expansion, and look forward to many more years of collaborative care for residents in Kamloops.”

Interior Health is committed to promoting healthy lifestyles and providing a wide range of quality health-care services to more than 740,000 people living across B.C.’s vast interior. For more information, visit www.interiorhealth.ca, follow us on Twitter [@Interior_Health](https://twitter.com/Interior_Health), or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/InteriorHealth.