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Local long-term care expands with 60 new beds now open

SALMON ARM – The finishing touches are complete at Mount Ida Mews, and residents have settled in nicely at Salmon Arm’s newest long-term care home.

“The neighborhood is very well staffed and it is a super clean environment,” says new Mount Ida Mews resident David Culver.

The project includes 60 new beds for people with complex care needs who can no longer live at home with supports.

“Older adults requiring 24-hour care deserve to spend their days in comfort, with top-quality staff and supports that families can count on. This new facility is an important investment in some of the Shuswap area’s most vulnerable and frail residents,” says Health Minister Adrian Dix.

Following a competitive procurement process, Interior Health awarded a contract for the development of 60 long-term care beds in Salmon Arm to Vantage Living Inc. Vantage Living added these beds to the existing Mount Ida Mews, the 72-bed long-term care home that opened in 2012. The new portion of the facility is directly across the driveway from the pre-existing home, and brings the total number of beds at the facility to 132.

“Demand for long-term care services continues to grow and we are committed to ensuring the proper supports are in place for our aging population, especially those with increasingly complex care needs,” says B.C. Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors Anne Kang.

Services at Mount Ida Mews include personal care, such as assistance with activities of daily living and medication management; care for seniors in the mild to advanced stages of dementia; and care for physically frail seniors.

“Long-term care offers a range of services in a home-like setting, to people who have reached a stage in their lives where they need a high level of support and care. As we look to the future, we are working with our partners in the health system to respond to the needs of our aging population,” says Interior Health Board Chair Doug Cochrane.

Interior Health has 5,844 long-term care beds, providing 24/7 care and support for individuals with complex care needs who are no longer able to live at home independently or with supports. This includes frail and elderly individuals with chronic conditions, such as those with dementia, whose needs may change over time.

The facility design reflects an aging, more medically complex population. Consideration has also been paid to cultural safety and First Nations engagement, achieved through consultation with the local indigenous community.

“We are very proud to partner with Interior Health to provide quality senior care to the residents of Salmon Arm. The expansion of Mount Ida Mews will create 48 new jobs for nurses, health-care assistants and hospitality workers in the community. We look forward to continuing to nurture our partnership

with the community of Salmon Arm and thank everyone who was involved in bringing this project to life,” says Vantage Living President Melanie Reinhardt.

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.

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