

For Immediate Release

Nov. 29th 2019

New team-based family medicine clinic opens in Penticton

Penticton residents now have increased access to team-based health care through the opening of the new Ponderosa Primary Care Centre.

This Centre houses six family physicians, two nurse practitioners, two registered nurses, a registered dietitian, social worker and an occupational therapist, and is part of the team-based approach to family medicine that is being introduced into clinics across the region.

“The doors at the Ponderosa Primary Care Centre are open, bringing better access to team-based and primary care services for people living in Penticton and South Okanagan,” says Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. “A team of health care professionals will work together to put patients at the centre of care and I’m pleased that government’s efforts through our primary care strategy are bringing real results throughout the province.”

The Ponderosa Primary Care Centre is a key component of the South Okanagan Similkameen Primary Care Network, which was announced by Health Minister Adrian Dix in April, and includes Interior Health, the SOS Division of Family Practice, local First Nation communities, the Ministry of Health and Doctors of BC.

Team-based care means patients have increased access to services, including the ongoing care of their physician or nurse practitioner, and extending to the specialized support of other health professionals. For example, during an appointment at Ponderosa, a patient’s physician or nurse practitioner may identify a health issue that could be more fully assessed or treated by a social worker or an occupational therapist.

“The Ponderosa Primary Care Centre will provide improved access to health care for patients in the Penticton region, making it easier for them to get the care they need through a team of health professionals,” adds Dr. Doug Cochrane, Interior Health Board Chair.

“Teamwork really makes sense to me,” says Ponderosa patient, Jan Kostek. “It makes sense to see a dietitian if you have issues about diets. Having different providers working together is really best for the system, and really is best for the patient.”

Currently, Ponderosa is providing care for patients who moved with their provider to the Centre, or who have been attached to one of the Centre’s primary care providers through the centralized Patient Attachment List. Patients who are looking for a provider are asked to sign up online on this list on the SOS Division of Family Practice website: www.divisions.bc.ca/sos.

“I love being part of a team-based approach to primary care,” says Nurse Practitioner, Kimberly Hayter. “The team members are so enthusiastic and genuinely want to provide excellent care.”

Ponderosa is also making it easier for patients to attend appointments, with opening hours M-Thurs, 8am-8pm, and from 8am-4pm on Fridays. The clinic has plans to be open on weekends by spring 2020.

For more information:

Heather Allen
SOS Division of Family Practice
heather.allen@sosdivision.ca

Interior Health Communications
media@interiorhealth.ca
1-844-469-7077 or 778.476.5696