



For Immediate Release | June 19, 2018

Seniors with age-related disease to benefit from new team-based model of care

REVELSTOKE - A new Seniors Health and Wellness Centre has opened in Revelstoke to benefit those with age-related frailty and complex medical conditions through a multi-disciplinary, team-based approach and access to community-based services.

“Team-based care is the future of health care in B.C. and will strengthen the level of care provided to seniors in Revelstoke and throughout the Province,” said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. “As part of this, government has launched a primary care strategy that will help British Columbians see more doctors, nurse practitioners and other health professionals working together to put patients back at the centre of health-care delivery. This centre is a perfect example of this strategy in action.”

Based on community demographics and needs, the Revelstoke centre will operate a half-day per week and is based in a visiting specialist room at Queen Victoria Hospital. The centre is expected to see approximately 80 patients per year and will be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis.

“Enhanced community care and improved access to services will help ensure seniors with complex care needs continue to receive the care they require now and in the coming years. We are fortunate to be working in collaboration with Dr. Kate McCarroll, a local family physician in Revelstoke with expertise in the care of the elderly, who is the physician lead for this work. We also appreciate the continued collaboration around seniors care with the local Division of Family Practice and its members,” said Interior Health Board Chair Doug Cochrane.

Referrals are made through family physicians or nurse practitioners across the health system. Linkages between the centre, existing health authority services and community-based supports will be established to ensure seniors get the care and services they need to remain independent for as long as possible.

The team members available to support a client’s individual needs may include: a family physician with specialized education in care for older adults; nurse practitioner; registered dietitian; social worker; respiratory therapist; physiotherapist; occupational therapist; community nurse; clinical integrated care coordinator; mental health clinician; and pharmacy support.

In addition to health assessment and treatments, the centre will provide education and connections to other community services to help seniors access programs promoting health and wellness.

“I’m excited to be working with the many highly skilled health professionals in Revelstoke who will make up the team for the Seniors Health and Wellness Centre. The team will support seniors to maintain independence and live well by focusing on the whole person and their goals of care,” said Dr. Kate McCarroll, Physician Lead for the Revelstoke Chapter of the Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice.

The Seniors Health and Wellness Centre is a partnership with input, funding and equipment contributions from Interior Health, the Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice, the B.C. Specialist Services Committee, and the Revelstoke Hospital Auxiliary.

The Seniors Health and Wellness Centre in Revelstoke supports the Government of B.C.'s new primary health-care strategy announced on May 24, 2018. The new strategy is focused on delivering faster, team-based care to British Columbians in all parts of the province. As part of this, government is implementing primary care networks, including urgent primary care centres and community health centres to help coordinate care and improve access. Government is also addressing the shortage of primary care providers in the province by providing funding for up to 200 new general practitioners and 200 nurse practitioners to work in a renewed primary care system. In addition, the Ministry of Health is dedicating \$75 million to improve and increase respite care and adult day programs to support seniors and their caregivers.

For information about seniors care within Interior Health, visit Adult and Seniors Health under Your Health at www.interiorhealth.ca.

For information about the Divisions of Family Practice visit www.divisionsbc.ca.