

For Immediate Release | September 24, 2012

Happy 1st Birthday Polson Tower!

The Polson Tower at Vernon Jubilee Hospital turns one on September 25.

“It is hard to believe it’s been a year already,” said Eric Foster, MLA Vernon-Monashee. “It feels like just yesterday we were opening this fantastic new patient care tower. Congratulations to the staff, physicians and volunteers for a successful first year of operations.”

A lot has happened since the tower opened on September 25, 2011. In the first 11 months, there were 32,643 visits to the new emergency department, more than 6700 surgeries performed, and 612 babies born in the tower.

“Everyone at Vernon Jubilee Hospital should be extremely proud,” said Norman Embree, Interior Health Board Chair. “They’ve had a great first year, and the community has been very supportive. We’re all looking forward to the next chapter for Vernon Jubilee Hospital.”

The \$180-million Polson Tower added 16,815 square metres (181,000 square feet) of space to the VJH site. The expanded and modernized facilities provide a quality environment for patients and staff.

“Polson Tower is a bright and beautiful building to work in,” said Pam Randall the Operating Room Material Management Coordinator at VJH. “Since moving in it feels like everyone is more upbeat, and after 34 years working at VJH, Polson Tower has given me a second wind.”

In April, the Minister of Health and Foster announced the beginning of detailed planning to add hospital beds at Polson Tower. Planning is well underway and a business case has been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

“We’re getting closer to the point when we can announce details of the plan, including the type and number of beds, scope of work, timeframe and estimated cost,” added Foster. “The excitement is definitely not over for Vernon Jubilee Hospital.”

In addition, the process to update the master site plan is underway. A Request for Proposals to provide master planning consulting services recently closed on September 18. Interior Health anticipates awarding the successful proposal by the end of the month with completion of the updated Master Site Plan in December.

