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A bright future for Seven Oaks General Hospital

Seven Oaks General Hospital has opened the doors to a bright welcoming entrance and more integrated health services with the completion of its Access to Care project.

The \$7.8 million project funded with a community campaign by the Seven Oaks General Hospital Foundation and ancillary revenues added a 6000 square foot two-storey atrium to the front of the hospital, and completely renovated another 14000 feet internally to create a new Information Desk, a new food court, gift shop, pharmacy and an integrated medical clinic.

Kildonan MP and Innovation, Energy and Mines Minister Dave Chomiak brought greetings from the Premier and congratulated the hospital for its service to the community.

"We know that health care is a top priority for Manitobans. This investment is a great example of our government's continued commitment to improving health care services," he said.

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Chief Executive Officer Arlene Wilgosh welcomed the initiative and the hospital's leadership in working with other levels of health care and integrating health services.

"The combination of having the Wellness Institute, the primary care clinic, pharmacy and hospital all at one site will greatly improve patients' access to all these types of care," Ms. Wilgosh said. "From health prevention and promotion to managing chronic illnesses, to the treatment of acute conditions – all are available here. The physicians who work in the clinic will oversee the care of their patients when they are admitted to hospital. This is integrated care at its best and that's what is best for patients."

The new medical clinic, Prairie Trail at the Oaks, will have up to 7 full-time physicians when it is fully operational serving a neighbourhood where there is a high demand for family doctors. This fall two physicians will join the clinic full-time and new physicians are expected to follow soon.

The clinic is private, but by agreement with Seven Oaks General Hospital, patients of the clinic who are hospitalized will be cared for by their own family doctor. The clinic doctors will also work closely with the Wellness Institute which offers dozens of health promotion, education and chronic disease management programs.

"The new integrated clinic will be an excellent opportunity to connect the hospital with family doctors in the community and the result will be better continuity of care for patients," Dr. Boyd said

Natural light was employed extensively in the Access to Care project and architecturally connects the hospital's 1997 development of the Wellness Institute and its more recent Emergency Department redevelopment which opened in 2008.

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“Healthcare is changing to meet higher expectations of patients and the public and we need our community to know that something new and different is happening here, not just with our care, but with the way we welcome and make patients and visitors comfortable in a time of illness and stress,” said President and Chief Operating Officer Carrie Solmundson.

Seven Oaks General Hospital Foundation has commissioned an art piece for a 12 by 40 foot wall on the east side of the atrium, which will be unveiled later this year and completed in January 2013. The atrium also includes a donor circle which recognizes contributors to the project and provides a quiet area for reflection. The Foundation’s community campaign continues toward its goal of raising \$1.2 million for the project.

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