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**PROVINCE INVESTS MORE THAN \$13 MILLION  
IN REDEVELOPMENT OF VICTORIA GENERAL HOSPITAL**

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**Project Announced As  
Mature Women's Centre Officially Opens**

The construction of a new oncology department and the redevelopment of an expanded emergency department will soon be underway at Victoria General Hospital to ensure continued access to quality care for patients, Health Minister Theresa Oswald announced today.

"It is important that we continue to strive to make Manitoba hospitals world-class facilities with state-of-the-art equipment and quality services," Oswald said. "Today's investment in Victoria General Hospital will ensure the facility remains on the leading edge of health-care service delivery in Manitoba."

Plans call for an expanded emergency department, a new oncology department, a new entrance lobby and additional office space. Construction will adhere to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification for environmentally-sound development under the Canadian Green Building Council rating system.

The province is investing more than \$13 million in the redevelopment project, with the Victoria General Hospital Foundation committing to an additional \$8.5 million.

"The redevelopment is essential if this hospital is to maintain the standard of medicine it is known for and that is expected by people using the facility," said Colin Lount, chair of the Victoria General Hospital Foundation. "This announcement, in addition to the recent relocation of the Mature Women's Centre, is also a good example of this province's commitment to very high standards of service and the hospital's commitment to this community."

Construction of the redevelopment is to be begin in April 2007.

Complementing the redevelopment plans, Healthy Living Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross also announced the official opening of the Mature Women's Centre.

"Our demographics are changing and as the number of menopausal and post-menopausal women increases, there is increasing demand for services," Irvin-Ross said. "It is important that women have the best resources available during this very important and sometimes difficult time in their lives."

The relocation of services for the centre from Health Sciences Centre to Victoria General Hospital has more than doubled the size of the clinic and expanded available services. The province has invested more than \$1 million to develop the new space, which allows for more efficient patient care, increased staffing and more programs.

“The centre continues to set a high standard in meeting the needs of mature women,” said Dr. Richard Boroditsky, one of the founders of the Mature Women’s Clinic. “This expansion will ensure we are able to maintain that high standard as the need for its services continues to grow.”

Effective immediately, the Mature Women’s Centre is offering additional clinics and is providing new and diverse services specifically targeting the prevention of heart disease and fractures due to osteoporosis including:

- new fracture prevention clinics that are offered three times a month to women who are at high risk for osteoporosis with the goal of intervening before a fracture happens; and
- a new program targeting the prevention of heart disease through diet and exercise as well as providing counselling, feedback and monitoring on an ongoing basis to support women.

“Prevention is one of the key components for addressing health concerns that are often associated with menopause,” said Jan Currie, vice-president and chief nursing officer for the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. “By utilizing the services at the Mature Women’s Centre, clients will know what to expect throughout all stages of menopause and how to maintain optimum fitness and health.”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ATTACHED

## **VICTORIA GENERAL HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT**

The redevelopment project ensures Victoria General Hospital will be able to deliver its programs and services efficiently and effectively in a modern facility, while creating capacity for projected increases in service volumes.

The project includes three main components: oncology, the emergency department and the Victoria General Hospital Foundation offices.

The oncology portion of the project will include:

- relocating the existing oncology department to a new 13,000 square-foot addition,
- increasing treatment spaces to 16 from 12,
- developing two new negative pressure isolation rooms,
- increasing the number of exam rooms to six from three,
- incorporating a minor procedure room,
- developing space for three full-time oncologists and related nursing staff, and
- developing new patient support and amenity spaces for the Look Good, Feel Better Program, counselling, library and reference area.

Space in the existing oncology area freed up by the new oncology addition will be used as a pre-assessment clinic for surgery, with four exam rooms for private consultation.

The new emergency department will reflect modern treatment spaces and include components based on recommendations from the Emergency Room Task Force Report, such as developing appropriate treatment space for mental health, providing enhanced privacy for patients to respect confidentiality and increased security. The project will also include:

- a new minor treatment area;
- a six-bed reassessment unit for up to 24-hour observation and monitoring;
- a new negative pressure isolation room;
- two new, state-of-the-art resuscitation/trauma rooms; and
- a new, three-bay ambulance garage, with decontamination area and work space for emergency medical services personnel.

The project for the foundation offices will include construction of new space for the Victoria General Hospital Foundation, which has been housed in temporary trailers at the site for the last six years.

## **Mature Women's Centre**

The Mature Women's Centre was created in 1994 to meet the health-care needs of women as they move through the menopause transition.

Originally located at the Health Science Centre, the program has been recognized for its contribution to women's health by the North American Menopause Society, the College of Registered Nurse of Manitoba and the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada.

The Mature Women's Centre provides a range of services using a nurse-managed, multidisciplinary team approach with an emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention including:

- menopause, osteoporosis and sexual health clinics and telephone consultation;
- a hysterectomy alternative program offering medical and procedural alternatives to hysterectomy;
- educational programs involving public education forums and monthly osteoporosis education days in affiliation with the Kinsmen Reh-Fit Centre; and
- education services for health-care professionals through local and national preceptorships in nursing, medicine, dietetics and pharmacy.