

Pembroke Regional Hospital Welcomes Surgical Day Care Patients Into Newly Renovated Space Following Phase 2 Completion Of Redevelopment Project

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PEMBROKE – With Phase 2 of the Pembroke Regional Hospital's *Surgical Redevelopment Project* now complete, Surgical Day Care patients have been welcomed into the transformed space that is bright, modern and already getting great reviews by those who have seen it.

Roger Martin, Executive Director of the Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation who had the opportunity to view the space before patients moved in February 21st said he was amazed to see what has been created in the areas formerly occupied by the old operating rooms and the hospital's original chapel on the third floor of Tower A.

"What was obvious right away is how much room there is in the new open concept layout compared to the original footprint of the space that was designed in the 1950s. There's now lots of room for our physicians and frontline staff and all patient bays are big, bright and spacious," Mr. Martin said.

He noted that even the endoscopy suite and minor procedure rooms which are now housed in the area formerly occupied by the chapel are large and spacious with enhanced technology features and up-to-date equipment. As a tribute to the building's history, the beautiful terrazzo flooring that adorned the chapel and has stood the test of time was preserved and incorporated into the new design.

"This incredible transformation and upgrade was only possible thanks to the generous donations made by those in our community as part of the *Cutting Edge Campaign* and while there is still work to be done on the inpatient side of the Surgical floor, this is a moment to celebrate as it will really enhance the patient experience and the environment in which we care for our family and friends," he said.

Valued at \$18 million, the three-phase *Surgical Redevelopment Project* is 90% funded by the province while community fundraising is covering the cost of equipment and the remaining 10%.

The construction began nearly two years ago with the relocation of the hospital's chapel to the first floor of Tower A in order to free up the space needed on the third floor to expand the Surgical program and make room for the area that now houses the surgical registration, endoscopy suite, multi-procedural room, Surgical Day Care unit and the hospital's medical device scope reprocessing area.

Surgical program Director Michelle Godsell said the goal of the project is to co-locate and improve all surgical services and patient space on the third floor of Towers A and D, linked by an enclosed walkway.

This will enhance the patient experience from start to finish; as patients will register at the point of care and receive their surgical procedure and care all on the same level in newly updated patient space.

Phase 3 of the project, which is now underway, involves a complete reconstruction of the hospital's inpatient surgical space and should be ready for occupancy later this summer. In preparation for this phase, the inpatient Surgical program was temporarily moved to Tower A's second floor last June.

PRH President and CEO Sabine Mersmann said the final phase will result in another incredible transformation of a space built in the 1950s. The "new" wing, which has been completely gutted, will be built to all current codes, housing a mix of private and semi-private patient rooms which are larger than those there previously.

Two new isolation rooms will also be added along with all new infrastructure, and new and enhanced comfort and safety features including the following:

- Central air
- Large energy efficient windows
- Larger accessible bathrooms with modern fixtures, new plumbing, grab bars, an upgraded nurse call system and safety doors that can open in both directions
- Brand new plumbing and improved electrical
- Terrazzo flooring

On average there are currently between 20 and 40 tradespeople working in the space each day.

"We recognize the impact that all of this work has had on our patient environment and while we have worked hard with our contractor to minimize disruption we know that, at times, it has been challenging. Being able to welcome patients into the transformed spaces has been wonderful and we look forward to being able to share with the community the final transformation that has taken place when the work is fully complete."

Mrs. Mersmann said that the hospital will make plans to host a grand opening celebration for the entire Surgical unit as well as a public tour opportunity once Phase 3 wraps up.

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