



calgary health region

Completion of construction of new Alberta Children's Hospital marked by celebration

Provincial, municipal and community dignitaries, guests and senior leaders of the Calgary Health Region joined together this afternoon to celebrate the completion of the new Alberta Children's Hospital; recognizing the vision and commitment of the many organizations and individuals involved in its creation.

The new hospital will officially open its doors to patients at 7 a.m. on September 27, 2006.

"The new Alberta Children's Hospital is an outstanding example of the Region's and the provincial government's strong commitment to providing a future of excellence in health care to our community," said David Tuer, Board Chair, Calgary Health Region. "It stands as a testament to the outstanding support of our partners, both in the provincial government and in the community, who provided the necessary funds to make this dream a reality."

The new hospital cost \$253 million to construct. The Province of Alberta provided approximately \$220 million while community partners – through the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation – provided \$33 million in funding for special design and architectural features, such as the hospital's Healing Gardens, interactive playgrounds, a gathering space and pet room. An additional \$20 million was provided from the community through the Foundation to fund research chairs, professorships and special programs.

When it officially opens its doors late next month, the new Alberta Children's Hospital will offer state-of-the-art health care services to children of all ages throughout Southern Alberta, in addition to young patients from southeastern British Columbia and southwestern Saskatchewan.

Premier Ralph Klein said, "This hospital is the first new freestanding children's hospital to be built in Canada in more than 20 years. It will serve as part of a network of services throughout southern Alberta to provide the finest possible health care for our children."

"The City of Calgary is thrilled to have the new Alberta Children's Hospital as part of our community," said Mayor Dave Bronconnier. "The building's unique design, which had the direct involvement of young people themselves, will serve as a colourful landmark in our city for years to come and will provide a warm and welcoming environment to many young Calgarians and their families."

For more information, on this and other Calgary Health Region news, please refer to our website at www.calgaryhealthregion.ca

Following this afternoon's event, the new Alberta Children's Hospital will undergo an extensive post-construction sanitization process. Over the next five weeks, specialized medical equipment and supplies will be installed and readied for operation. The hospital's first patients will arrive on Wednesday, September 27, 2006.

Contact information:

Don Stewart

Communications & Community Relations

Calgary Health Region

Phone: 943-1210 or 880-4484 cell