

PRESS RELEASE

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New Pediatric Ambulatory Care Clinic Opens at The Moncton Hospital Thanks to Generous Contributions from Donors

Investment Allowed for Clinic Renovations and Equipment to Enrich the Care of the Hospital's Sick Children

Moncton - The Moncton Hospital (TMH) is committed to providing our young patients with optimal care and the very best treatment. An investment of \$185,000 from the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation's 2014-2015 Campaign was used to create a new Pediatric Ambulatory Clinic space to enhance the services provided to children into one designated area on the Pediatrics Unit.

Christa Wheeler-Thorne, Nurse Manager for Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Family Planning, is delighted that this renovation project which will bring the current services for children into a single, child and family-friendly location has been completed. "Unfortunately, until now, we put clinics wherever we could find space on the Pediatric Unit, so it was inconvenient for our patients, families and staff. One designated area will allow us to provide coordinated services and treat our youngest patients more efficiently in a private, child-friendly environment," says Wheeler-Thorne.

Wheeler-Thorne says this project will continue to lower the number of hospital admissions on the Pediatric Unit. Length of stay in the hospital will also be reduced as children can return home earlier and receive follow-up care at the Clinic. The Clinic will improve quality of life for pediatric patients and their families while decreasing the number of visits to the Emergency Room (i.e. suture removal, dressing change). Four child-friendly treatment rooms, an assessment area, a colorful and comfortable waiting room and a physician/nurse documentation area will make up the new clinic space. This allows for a vulnerable child, at risk for infections, to have his or her own private area, protecting them from exposure to germs. Every effort has been made to ensure the environment is completely child-friendly to allow them to feel safe, comfortable and less threatened than is often the case in a traditional hospital setting.

"Improving the comfort and care of patients, and providing a family-friendly environment is part of Horizon's number one strategic priority," says John McGarry, CEO of Horizon Health Network. "We are very grateful to the Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation for their fundraising efforts and for sharing in our commitment to patient and family centred care. This new clinic will certainly enhance the experiences of The Moncton Hospital's pediatric patients and their families."

Other than renovations, funds were spent on four examination tables, a physician dictation system, two PACS monitors (medical imaging viewers) that are compatible with the hospital computer system, wall mounted otoscopes (a medical device which is used to look into the ears), modular seating in the clinic waiting room and child-friendly furniture.

Friends Foundation Chair Steve Fowler is pleased that the Foundation is supporting such a worthy project. "Once again, donor dollars are being used to create enhanced care, this time for our young patients who are most deserving," says Fowler.

Over 3,200 children a year (from South-East and Northern New Brunswick, as well as parts of Nova Scotia) attend the various Pediatric Clinics to deal with a number of health issues related to kidney (nephrology), diabetes, cancer, (hematology/oncology), neurology (seizures, disorder of the nervous system), orthopedics (prevention of correction of injuries or disorders of the skeletal system and associated muscles, joints and ligaments), heart (cardiology), blood work (phlebotomy), high-risk immunization, pediatric sedation (children are put to sleep for special procedures i.e. MRI) and day treatment procedures (i.e. suture removal, dressings changed).

The Pediatrics Ambulatory Care Clinic is located on the main floor of The Moncton Hospital. It is ideally located in the Pediatric Unit in the space vacated by the Child and Youth Wellness Unit which is now on the 3rd floor of TMH.

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