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NEWSrelease

FOR RELEASE #11-124

August 11, 2011



Reopening of Thomson Centre to add 19 continuing care beds

WHITEHORSE—Thomson Centre reopened today as an intermediate care facility, bolstering the number of Yukon's continuing care beds by 19.

"I am thrilled to officially reopen Thomson Centre today," Health and Social Services Minister Glenn Hart said. "It is extremely gratifying after all this time to see Thomson Centre return to its original purpose."

Thomson Centre opened in 1993 as the city's second extended care facility, eventually housing 44 residents requiring high levels of support and care. In 2002, residents were moved to the newly opened Copper Ridge Place and Thomson Centre was slated for updates and repairs with the intent that it would reopen to provide intermediate level care.

The care needs of residents who will be living at Thomson Centre are similar to those living at Macaulay Lodge.

"These 19 new beds will help alleviate the wait list for care beds," added Hart. "An additional 10 rooms have been prepared at Thomson Centre and can be opened as required."

Continuing problems with the building, including mold and roofing issues, kept the facility closed to residential care; however, parts of it were used, and will continue to be used by Whitehorse General Hospital.

Patients will begin moving into the facility over the next two weeks. As is the general practice, the facility will be filled gradually, allowing residents to adjust to their new surroundings and to the staff.

All residents are expected to be in the facility by the middle of September.

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See backgrounder below.

Contact:

Elaine Schiman
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7961
elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca

Pat Living
Communications, Health & Social Services
867-667-3673
patricia.living@gov.yk.ca

Thomson Centre Reopening Backgrounder:

- The Thomson Centre was opened in 1993 as an extended care facility consisting of 44 beds operated by the Yukon government.
- The original building cost in 1993 was \$11.5 million.
- In 2002, the facility was closed for repairs.

- In late 2010, Graham Construction and Engineering from Delta, B.C. was awarded the contract to do renovations and bring the building up to code, with a proposed cost of \$2.3 million.
- Renovations consisted of upgrades to code for fire, electrical and security; installation of a nurse call system; interior retrofit, including millwork, lighting, windows, painting, door widening, sky lights, kitchen overhaul, landscaping and fencing.
- Although the building is owned by the Yukon Hospital Corporation, the facility will be leased by Yukon government's Health and Social Services department.
- The first 19 beds will be ready for occupancy next week; the remaining 10 beds will be opened as required.

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