



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Yukon government purchases Oblate Centre in Whitehorse**

WHITEHORSE—Minister of Health and Social Services Mike Nixon announced today the Yukon government's purchase of the Oblate Centre on Sixth Avenue in Whitehorse.

The building will be converted to a new downtown health-care facility that will help meet the needs of Yukoners. It will initially be used for continuing care patients, until permanent beds are available in the planned Whistle Bend facility. The anticipated budget for the purchase and renovation of the property is \$2.86 million.

"We are all aware of the pressures on our existing continuing care beds and the growing wait list for urgent care for our citizens. The conversion of this building will increase our capacity to provide care to the clients at greatest risk," Nixon said.

The property was purchased from the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, who formerly used the building as a retirement home for Oblate priests. The conversion will result in 10 new continuing care beds, bringing the total number in Yukon to 193.

The departments of Health and Social Services and Highways and Public Works will now proceed to the design and renovation phase. Work is expected to begin in May, with occupancy in mid-November.

The department is working closely with the Yukon Hospital Corporation to manage continuing care beds and to ensure the best use of available resources.

"The 10 new beds will not automatically free up acute care beds, but they will alleviate some of the pressure on our facilities," Nixon added.

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