



FOR RELEASE
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New health facility opened in Watson Lake

WATSON LAKE—The new Watson Lake health facility was officially opened this afternoon.

Premier Darrell Pasloski, Health and Social Services Minister Doug Graham and Watson Lake MLA Patti McLeod joined Yukon Hospital Corporation chair Craig Tuton to cut the ribbon and officially open the new six-bed acute care facility.

"Today is a day for celebration for the community of Watson Lake, for the Yukon Hospital Corporation and for Yukon as a whole," Pasloski said. "We are very happy that this facility is complete and will begin welcoming patients soon."

Tours of the new facility were offered to residents and visitors.

"The opening of the health care facility demonstrates this government's commitment to the community of Watson Lake and to the provision of quality health care in southeast Yukon," Graham said.

The facility will also house government services. The home care and public health programs will operate out of the new building which will encourage collaborative practice.

"The new Watson Lake Community Hospital will be a huge asset to the community," Tuton said. "Providing acute care closer to home supports the corporation's mission of excellent and safe patient care."

The new facility replaces the old one built in the mid-1970s and operated by the federal government until the mid-1990s when health care transferred to the Yukon government. The hospital became part of the Yukon Hospital Corporation in 2010.

"This new hospital will be an excellent asset for residents of the Watson Lake area and for travellers," McLeod said. "The opening of the new facility is a positive development to address a wide variety of health care needs."

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