

FOR RELEASE
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Residents to move into Thomson Centre next week

WHITEHORSE— Residents will begin moving into the ten newly renovated extended care rooms at the Thomson Centre starting next week.

"We are extremely pleased that the renovations to the Thomson Centre have gone so well and that we are now able to add these ten beds to the continuing care system," Minister of Health and Social Services Mike Nixon said. "The opening of the Whistle Bend facility in 2018 is the long-term solution, but in the interim this is a positive step towards improving the bed shortage until the facility is ready."

The plan to renovate the centre to address bed shortages was developed collectively earlier this year by the Government of Yukon, the Yukon Hospital Corporation, doctors and nurses.

The renovations will help alleviate the growing wait list for continuing care beds, and will assist patients who no longer require an acute care bed in the hospital system and would be better served in a long-term care facility. The cost to complete the renovations was \$594,000.

"Ensuring that Yukoners receive the right care in the right place and at the right time is a high priority for us and our health system partners," Yukon Hospitals chief of medical staff Dr. Wayne MacNicol said. "The opening of new continuing care beds in the Thomson Centre is positive news for patients, families and our health teams."

In addition to the ten new beds in the Thomson Centre, the Government of Yukon opened Birch Lodge in February, which also added ten continuing care beds. The opening of the new McDonald Lodge in Dawson increased the bed count in that facility by four.

The new 150-bed continuing care facility in Whistle Bend will open in early 2018.

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