
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2007HEALTH0042-000428
April 12, 2007

Ministry of Health

NEW FRASER VALLEY ADDICTION CENTRE OPENS

SURREY – Hundreds of adults and youth struggling with substance misuse will have better access to withdrawal management services with the opening of a new Fraser Health centre of specialized addiction services in Surrey, announced Health Minister George Abbott today, at the official opening of Creekside Withdrawal Management Centre.

“Creekside Withdrawal Management Centre will provide a safe, medically supervised and supportive environment for men, women and youth who want to eliminate substance misuse as part of their lifestyle,” said Abbott. “This new facility replaces the existing Maple Cottage Detox and will expand service from 22 to 30 beds – 24 adult and six dedicated youth beds.”

Currently, 1,200 individuals are supported annually at Maple Cottage, which has been temporarily located in Burnaby. With the opening of Creekside – combined with the 10 detox beds in Chilliwack – Fraser Health will now be able to provide access to care for an additional 1,000 people in the region each year.

The new facility also makes it possible to provide six dedicated youth beds for the first time in Fraser Health; previously three of the adult beds, when vacant, were used to accommodate young people. The new facility will also offer a dedicated program tailored especially for youth, rather than young people having to participate in the general adult program.

The centre also includes space for a future Daytox Program, a medically monitored group-based day program offering withdrawal management for individuals who do not require intensive residential withdrawal management services. For clients assessed as being suitable and who have a supportive home environment, it will provide an alternative treatment and support option to detox or hospitalization.

“Research has shown that a withdrawal management centre can be the first critical step in a treatment continuum that can result in improved health for the individual. And Fraser Health is very pleased to open the doors of this new purpose-built facility, knowing that the improvements realized are going to have a far-reaching positive impact on many lives,” said Keith Anderson, Fraser Health’s interim president and CEO.

The new two-storey centre is located on 94A Avenue in Surrey on property adjacent to the Surrey Memorial Hospital, a portion of which was donated by the Surrey Memorial Hospital Foundation. The site was chosen as a more central location for potential clients to access from all corners of Fraser Health.

The architectural design features a warm home-like relaxing setting with single-person rooms, spacious and bright common areas and a beautiful interior design.

Creekside is also striving for Silver Certification as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building for its design, construction and physical plant operation. Examples of Creekside's energy efficient strategies include low flush toilets, sensor water taps, radiant heat in the ceiling, and energy efficient lighting.

“Substance misuse is treatable and this new centre is a reflection of Fraser Health's strong commitment to supporting individuals in their recovery journeys,” said Susan McKela, manager of Creekside Withdrawal Management Centre. “It is a very exciting day for us as health-care providers – our new facility provides an opportunity to build on our strengths and ultimately become more responsive to those individuals needing our support to achieve a better quality of life.”

Each year, British Columbia spends more than \$1 billion to support mental health and addictions services throughout the province – an increase of 20 per cent in funding since 2001. Investing in mental health and addictions services is part of the Province's Pacific Leadership Agenda to help renew and improve the health-care system.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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