
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Health
Interior Health

CONSTRUCTION STARTS ON NEW LYTTON HEALTH CENTRE

LYTTON – A major milestone was reached today at the official groundbreaking of a new health centre in Lytton. Taking part in the celebrations were Health Minister George Abbott, Lytton First Nation Chief Byron Spinks, Lytton Mayor Chris O'Connor, representatives from Interior Health and the Thompson Regional Hospital District, and other community dignitaries.

“The site work for the new health centre has begun, and residents of the Lytton area and surrounding Aboriginal communities can look forward to a new health centre opening its doors next summer,” said Abbott. “The new facility is a dramatic improvement over the historic but aging St. Bartholomew’s hospital.”

The Province will provide \$6.3 million toward the projected cost of \$8.1 million for the entire development of the new health centre, with the remainder from the Thompson Regional Hospital District. The Lytton Centre supports the First Nations Health Plan and government’s broader Pacific Leadership Agenda.

“This is a significant day in history for both our Nlaka’pamux and non-Aboriginal communities in the Lytton area, as we will all benefit from a new and improved health-care facility for years to come,” said Chief Spinks.

The new health centre will include an emergency department, lab and x-ray services, offices, a medical clinic and a pharmacy. The new centre will also feature six assisted living units through the Independent Living BC program. These private apartments are tailored to seniors who can no longer live on their own but have enough independence to manage day-to-day living with some added support.

“As a partner in the construction of the new Lytton Health Centre, this is an exciting day to see the shovels in the ground and a project vision come to reality,” said TRHD board chair John O’Fee.

“We know how important this project is to Lytton and the adjacent First Nations communities. Interior Health is pleased to be able to join with our partners – with the Province, with BC Housing, and with the regional hospital district – to officially celebrate the start of construction of a new health centre for Lytton,” added Alan Dolman, chair of the Interior Health Board.

The new health centre will incorporate green features, such as geothermal heating and cooling, and will strive to achieve a Gold LEED Certification through the Canada Green Building Council. Completion of the new health centre is targeted for summer 2008.

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