



NEWS RELEASE

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BECKLEY FARM LODGE UPGRADES IMPROVE SERVICES TO SENIORS

Victoria – Seniors with complex care needs are being better accommodated following a \$4.5 million upgrade to the Beckley Farm Lodge long-term care facility in Victoria. As part of the Complex Care Upgrade Project, extensive renovations to the facility were carried out to bring the facility up to current complex care standards.

“We are committed to providing a range of appropriate housing and care options for all British Columbian seniors,” said Minister of Health George Abbott. “The upgrades at Beckley Farm Lodge create an environment that truly speaks to the needs of the residents and their families.”

Operated by the non-profit Beckley Farm Lodge Society, the facility, which also includes overnight respite, community bathing and outreach day programs, was redesigned to increase the comfort, mobility and safety of residents. Upgrades include installation of overhead lifts in resident rooms and bathrooms, development of secured clustered units to serve dementia residents, improvement to the functionality of bathrooms, development of dining and social spaces, the removal of obsolete closet space to increase unit size, and safety upgrades to the sprinkler system.

“This project is part of series of facility upgrades that VIHA is planning to undertake in the years ahead,” said Vancouver Island Health Authority Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Mike Conroy. “Individuals with complex care needs respond better to treatment when grouped with clients experiencing similar health issues, and providing secure, homelike environments with modern amenities benefits both the client and care provider.”

In collaboration with the Beckley Farm Lodge Society the upgrades and renovations to the facility were funded with one-time contributions from the Vancouver Island Health Authority (\$2.7 million), and the Capital Regional Hospitals District (\$1.8 million). InsideOut Planning & Architecture and Canpro Construction were contracted to do the work.

“We are pleased to see Beckley Farm Lodge upgraded to current care standards,” said Chris Clement, Chair of the Capital Regional Hospital District. “These improvements will ensure that this facility can meet the higher-level care needs of today’s clients, as well as provide a better work environment for staff.

The success of this renovation has not been without its share of drama. Originally scheduled to take one year to complete, in August 2006 a break-in and subsequent theft of copper pipe caused flooding and extensive damage to the residential wing, which delayed the project by six months. Remediation of the water damage included the complete removal of drywall, insulation, flooring, millwork, fixtures and cabinets as well as the fire alarm, intrusion alarm and nurse call systems. The resulting additional cost to the project was \$1.5 million.

“Our residents, families, volunteers and staff are relieved and grateful to be home again and are adjusting to their beautiful new surroundings,” says Jan Robertson, Executive Director of Beckley Farm Lodge. “We are very grateful to VIHA and the CRHD for their support throughout this project. The Board is now moving forward with plans to redevelop the grounds to provide residents with secure therapeutic garden areas.”

The Beckley Farm Lodge at 530 Simcoe Street in James Bay officially opened its doors on March 19, 1982. Exactly twenty-six years later the Beckley Farm Lodge Society celebrates the reopening of its newly remodeled facility that provides a more supportive environment for residents today and in the future.

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